

Elite Mages' Academy Novel

Chapter 401 - Silverlight's Request

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Gu Xiaoyue did not seem that surprised. She proceeded to tell Xiao Lin about what happened. After the examination was over, the examiner made a point to invite her to join the Mage Union, but she rejected them unceremoniously.

"That's why they gave you such a low evaluation!" Xiao Lin was appalled.

"I guess so."

Anger rushed into Xiao Lin's heart and he found the injustice more unacceptable than his own. However, his anger was instantly extinguished after seeing Gu Xiaoyue's cold expression, and he did not know whether to cry or laugh. "You don't seem to be too dissatisfied with it?"

"Why should I be dissatisfied?"

"Your grades and rankings will be affected, and this result will be recorded in your lifetime file. If you go to the New World in the future, it's something they'll refer to, whether it's finding a job or other stu—"

Xiao Lin's voice gradually became softer and softer as he said with a bitter smile, "Sorry."

Indeed, he almost forgot that Gu Xiaoyue had only two years of life left. It would be very cruel to talk about the future in front of her, despite the apparent indifference on her face.

"What you did is right!" Xiao Lin immediately changed his position and expressed support for her. "Any Mage Union or stupid rankings can go to hell! What's important is that you live a comfortable life!"

"I'll hang up now if there's nothing else." Gu Xiaoyue had a habit of hanging up early.

"Hey, wait!" Xiao Lin was forced to interrupt her and asked in a deliberative tone, "I heard that an exception will be made for this batch of freshmen to return to Earth after the exam. Do you have any plans?"

Gu Xiaoyue was a little stupefied. Such momentous news was obviously yet to be announced, but she did not doubt Xiao Lin's words. After a moment of distressed surprise, she whispered, "I might go home to check on things."

“Let’s go back together then. Your sister knows me too. It’d be good for me to go back and see her again. Mm, I think that’s agreed then. Alright, I have something to deal with, so I’ll hang up first.” Xiao Lin finished his words in one breath and did not even give Gu Xiaoyue a chance to refute when he hung up. However, he did not know whether his real purpose was to go back and visit her sister or whether he simply wanted to be with Gu Xiaoyue.

With Gu Xiaoyue settled, there was still someone else waiting for Xiao Lin. He was somewhat scared when he turned around and saw a white shadow floating in the air. It might not be the first time they met like that, but it was still chilling nonetheless.

“Can’t you show up a little more normally next time, Silverlight?”

“Mm, good idea. What would you suggest?” Silverlight asked in a very serious tone.

Xiao Lin was speechless, as he was just casually complaining. Silverlight was a soul in his ring, and he really could not think of any other ways for her to show up. He rolled his eyes helplessly and said, “At least let me know in advance.”

“Oh. Are you going back?” Silverlight went straight to the point after uttering in response.

Xiao Lin pondered and understood why she was looking for him. “Do you want to go back too?”

“Isn’t this something you promised?” Silverlight was confused, and there was a slight sternness between her eyebrows. No matter how delicate and cute she was, Xiao Lin would never forget the ruthlessness she displayed back in Silverlight Lake.

The cold sweat on Xiao Lin’s forehead began to drip down. He had promised her that at the time, but Xiao Lin did not have the final say on whether he could bring her back.

Like the security checks one had to go through whenever one went to the New World, a similar check was required when returning to Earth. Xiao Lin could not guarantee whether Silverlight would be detected. Even if she could not be detected, he must also consider whether the balance of Earth’s space and time would be affected if Silverlight were to return.

Xiao Lin did not want to cause the Earth’s balance to be destroyed again because of his negligence. According to Song Junlang, every time the balance of the earth is intensified and destroyed, it will trigger a big natural reaction, such as a volcano or a tsunami.

He hesitated to mention his worries to Silverlight. Since Silverlight was also considered one of Earth’s humans, he believed she would not make things hard for him. However, Silverlight’s attitude was very firm—she was adamant on going back and seeing everything. It had been her biggest wish for so many years and the main reason she was willing to follow Xiao Lin.

“If you’re worried about the balance of space, then you can rest assured. When I went from Earth to Planet Norma, I lost most of my abilities, otherwise it wouldn’t be possible for anyone to imprison my soul.”

Xiao Lin did not completely trust Silverlight’s explanation, but the fact was that he had no other choice. After all, he had promised her, and he could also understand the woman’s longing for her hometown on Earth.

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A little later, the student union finally announced the most important news, that freshmen were allowed to return to Earth. While countless people were cheering, the student union soon introduced a series of rules and regulations that had to be followed. They were issued by the student union president, who had personally created them. Since there had not been any precedent in past years which allowed for freshmen to head back, the regulations contained many clauses and terms, and the very first one was that severe punishment should any of the rules be violated.

First and foremost, only those who had passed their test could return. Those who failed must stay in the academy to prepare for the make-up exam. It was also forbidden to disclose the existence of Dawn Academy on Earth, nor could they use any abilities that were beyond the comprehension of ordinary people. The second line was rather vague, and the original words of the student union president were that no one shall let themselves be seen by anyone unaffiliated with the academy.

It was rather interesting, as it seemed to say that abilities could be used as long as they were not discovered. Of course, Xiao Lin knew that it was a protection of sorts for freshmen, as they did not even reach Silver-rank and could not be considered strong. Fundamentally speaking, there was no need to worry that they might disrupt the balance of things.

A brief explanation of the academy's monitoring mechanism on Earth soon followed, which dispelled anyone who thought that they could use their abilities and get away with it by luck. Although many people were not particularly happy about such harsh conditions, it was enough for them as long as they could go home once.

In the end, the academy also opened up the exchange function between points and RMB. Of course, the exchange is unilateral, which meant that points could be exchanged for RMB, but not vice-versa. The price was quite generous too, with 1,000 RMB per one redemption point. However, the maximum that they could get was capped at one million RMB.

Generally speaking, everyone was satisfied with it. In the past four months or so, the freshmen have often discussed their lives on Earth. Most of them who enrolled had relatively average families on Earth and rarely had that kind of power or riches. The academy actually paid attention to such things when they recruited the freshmen.

What the academy wanted for people who would go to the New World without hesitation. Those with sufficient wealth and power on Earth might find the New World much less attractive.

Chapter 402 - The Essay Question Debate

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Along with the announcement of that momentous news, the assessment rankings published on the forum no longer became the subject of discussion by everyone else, except for a small number of people who were trying to find the names of certain people—such as the monitors or Xiao Lin—from the rankings.

Among the 12 monitors, Class Four's Han Manman was the only one who still remained the acting monitor due to having failed her test. Meanwhile, the others had all officially been appointed squad leaders and there was strong competition for the year leader spot. They were also the candidates for the upcoming inter-academy competition, so it was only natural that they became the focus of everyone's attention.

The monitors' grades were mostly quite outstanding, and while Xiao Lin's final evaluation was not that bad, there were still people who made a point to emphasize his score on the essay question. Xiao Lin had a reputation after all, but the more prominent reason was that he only got a D- in the essay question and was actually the lowest score out of all.

"A D minus? One of the student union's guys told me that it's been several years since he saw such a bad score."

"It can't be right? Xiao Lin is strong though."

"As strong as he is, I don't believe he'll get a good result if he's absent from class all the time. This is a written test!"

"The previous poster is obviously jealous. Didn't you see his multiple-choice questions, he got an S!"

"Cheated."

"Why don't you show me how to get an S by cheating?"

"There's no point talking about all this. It's not like I'm the one who graded the essays."

"I think Xiao Lin deliberately didn't answer the last question."

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There are also several posts on the forum expressing curiosity about that odd rating. Some people from Class Seven decided to ask their monitor directly, but they got zero response from Xiao Lin as he was inside the student union's office. A couple of old bespectacled men were seated before him. He had gone there after speaking with Gu Xiaoyue.

Xiao Lin did not really care much for his grades anyway as long as he passed. Getting number one or number ten did not matter at all to him, but other people seemed to be more concerned with that than him. It was none other than the group of old men in front of him. To be more precise, they were the teachers who graded that written test.

These few months of academy life has long taught Xiao Lin a latent rule: although appearance was not a criterion for judging age, anyone in that world who looked slightly older would definitely have entered academy very early on. Anyone who had reached that age and was allowed to stay in the academy were undoubtedly professor-level figures with actual talent.

When Xiao Lin was still browsing the forum, he received a message from the president who called him over without explaining the why. After arriving, he saw a scene that resembled a trial in three courts.

“Although the actual combat assessment is the responsibility of the military, the written test is still under the purview of the few professors here. You were called here because some of the professors have questions for you.” The baby-faced president remained as genial as ever. He smiled, but his eyes hinted to Xiao Lin that nothing good would come out of that day.

“This is Professor Li, who is in charge of compiling Planet Norma’s history. This is Professor Zhang, who is in charge of Norma’s humanities research. This here is someone you ought to know, since he’s your lecturer, Professor Dai. This is—”

“That’s enough! Don’t waste our time, President. We called Xiao Lin just to have a talk.” The Professor Zhang mentioned by the president interrupted the latter unceremoniously, as if he had seen through the president’s intentions.

In nominal terms, the president was responsible for all teacher-student affairs of the entire academy, but sometimes qualifications had more authority than positions. It was clear that the authority of the president was very small there.

“Xiao Lin, we’re here to discuss the essay question with you. First of all, can you confirm that this is what you wrote?” Professor Zhang said as he took out a printed test paper and handed it over. On it was Xiao Lin’s answer to the final question.

So that was it...

Xiao Lin never expected to be called over and could not help but feel a headache coming on.

“If you don’t have objections, some of our professors are very curious as to why you answered it in such a way? Who told you that?”

“Is there a rule that forbids me to answer in such a way?” Xiao Lin blinked and asked back.

The several professors were taken aback and their momentum took a hit. Another individual, Professor Li, pursed his lips and said pensively, “Your answers were actually very great. We’re very happy to let you get first place among this batch of freshmen, but there’s a rule in the academy that the answer sheet of the first-placed candidate must be publicly displayed in the academy for others to learn from. It’s impossible to publicly show that kind of answer...but since you’ve admitted to answering indiscriminately, there are no further issues.”

“I answered this after making careful considerations.” Although Xiao Lin understood that the final score might not be changed, he did not want anyone else to think that he was answering questions on a whim.

The professors frowned and Professor Dai suddenly asked, “What’s the reason? I don’t remember talking about war in my class? An all-out war between us and the Normans, no less! Don’t you think you’re being an alarmist? Have you ever taken the academy’s discipline seriously?”

“Somehow. It doesn’t really matter what kind of evaluation you give me, but it’s unnecessary for you to deny the correctness of my answer simply because of that.” Xiao Lin spread out his hand and said innocently, “Isn’t that fact really obvious??”

“Absurd!”

“Ludicrous!”

Loud harrumphs were heard all around. The president blinked helplessly at Xiao Lin and motioned for him to give in a little. Xiao Lin sighed, waved his hand and said, “Okay, okay, I was wrong. I shouldn’t tell the truth. I should just write how strong we are on the answer sheet...”

Xiao Lin originally wanted to add in a couple of sarcastic jibes, but he swallowed it back after a second thought. It did not matter what he said there as it was meaningless whether or not he managed to persuade the other party.

The professors stared at him and felt that their fieriness had not yet been completely dispelled. In the end however, the short meeting ended hastily. Professor Dai was the only one who patted Xiao Lin on the shoulder before leaving, and he even said meaningfully, “Xiao Lin, you’re still too young. Sometimes what the people need isn’t the truth.”

Xiao Lin froze. When he turned around, Professor Dai was already far away.

The student council president sighed deeply and rubbed his eyebrows before saying, “Ever since you enrolled in the academy, I’ve realized that the frequency of my troubles is twice as much as before!”

Xiao Lin felt embarrassed too, as it was true when he thought about it. If there was any trouble in the academy, the president was the one who ended up in trouble about 80% to 90% of the time. Xiao Lin was fortunate to have the president on his side, but the latter then said in a rather stern manner, “You really shouldn’t answer the question like that.”

“President, do you think that peace will always be maintained in Planet Norma?” Xiao Lin was a little confused. As a freshman who had only been to the New World twice, he could vaguely sense an impending crisis, especially since Asabanor’s appearance could be likened to an explosive barrel waiting to be ignited. He could hardly believe it if those who had spent so many years in Planet Norma did not feel the same way.

“Don’t you think it’ll send shockwaves throughout the entire academy if we give such high marks for an answer to that kind of question? How will other students think of us? How much panic will it cause in the entire colony?” the president questioned.

Xiao Lin was speechless, as that never crossed his mind at all.

Chapter 403 - Departing for Home

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Although the president’s tone was a bit serious, he still remained somewhat cheerful. “Some things might not be as simple as they seem to be on the surface. Many things, such as the contest between the academies, the covert battle between the academy and the Normans, and even the power struggle within the academy, are more complicated they look.”

Xiao Lin asked back, “So it means they’re actually aware of the current situation but they refuse to admit it just to avoid panic?”

The president was a little helpless. “That’s not true, perhaps they’re subconsciously alert, but most people might not feel so strongly about it. I believe you’re aware of the differences between the dean and the military by now.”

Xiao Lin nodded. “The dean advocates long-term suppression of the orcs and other threatening races in Planet Norma, but the military believes that the Norman natives should be united against other academies.”

“Which one do you think is right?”

“I support the dean, but not everyone thinks that way. In fact, since the end of the orc war and the affirmation of the resurrection law, the dominance of Earthlings in Planet Norma has been continuously strengthened, in addition to the knowledge that has been instilled in the new students from generation to generation. Until now, almost everyone believes that we’re very strong, and the Normans have no choice but to bow before us.”

Xiao Lin did not comment on that, but asked instead, “What’s your personal opinion, President?”

The president smiled noncommittally. “I don’t know. The situation in Planet Norma has become more and more complex since about ten years ago. By the way, starting from the second half of the semester, there should be one more basic course in your basic course, called Basic Norma Political Science. I strongly recommend it, and I hope that freshmen can get a general understanding of the basic political structure of Planet Norma from now on.”

After a pause, the president’s complexion eased slightly and he smiled, “But you don’t have to think too much. If there really is a war with the Normans, it will only happen in the future. It can’t possibly happen so soon. We’re still quite strong when compared to the Normans, and it isn’t that easy for the tables to be turned.”

Xiao Lin decided in his heart that war, regardless of the circumstances, was not something to be happy about.

After listening to all that, Xiao Lin began making preparations to go home, but there was nothing much to prepare actually. According to the regulations for returning to Earth, all kinds of weapons and equipment from there were not allowed to be taken back. It was not that the balance of space might be destroyed, since the freshmen’s equipment were mostly Black Iron- or—on rare occasions—Bronze-rank, which only caused very limited fluctuations in space.

Rather, the academy was worried that freshmen would cause trouble when they head back. Such an incident was not without precedent. When it came to ordinary people who suddenly obtained superhuman power and returned to Earth’s normal environment, the academy wanted to prevent untoward situations by imposing strict management and punishment rather than relying on an individual to suppress their own desires.

In order for the freshmen to have a more intuitive understanding of their own strength, the student union even told them unceremoniously that there was no way for them to block the damage of a firearm without the academy’s armor and equipment, even if their strength had

surpassed ordinary people. If they did not want their lives to be wasted for no good reason, they ought to spend their holidays on the earth in an earnest manner. In any case, the preferential exchange prices basically ensured that most people who went back would become millionaires. Such an amount of money could basically let them enjoy themselves for a long time.

There are more than 800 people in the freshman year, and some people have already started the journey since the afternoon of the announcement. The academy had specially prepared an extended spatial carriage for that purpose, but it still took some time as there was only one spatial channel.

Although it was just a short 10-day holiday, everyone was already brimming with excitement. In the few months of academy life, people who got along well would get together in twos and threes, walk in groups, and exchange ways to communicate with each other on Earth. Of course, there were also others who refused to disclose too much out of caution.

Xiao Lin asked Gu Xiaoyue about it, and she seemed unwilling to board a very crowded carriage with too many people, so she said she would leave a few days later. She did not seem to mind that her vacation days were reduced by a few days, but in fact, in the two days after the exam, Xiao Lin noticed that she went to the meditation room or library every day.

Since Xiao Lin said she would accompany her, he had no choice but to leave a few days later. Song Junlang was disgruntled about it and grumbled heavily. He seemed anxious to return to Earth, so he left early, but he informed Xiao Lin to contact him again when they were back on Earth.

Cheng Ming wanted to tag along with Xiao Lin, but left with a knowing smile after hearing that the latter was accompanying Gu Xiaoyue. Chen Dao also looked for Xiao Lin, as he and Cheng Ming were the two who could be considered to have the best relationship with Xiao Lin. Rather than asking to come along however, Chen Dao asked him for his gaming ID.

Xiao Lin rubbed his ears vigorously to make sure that he heard it right. Rather than asking for a phone number or address on Earth, Chen Dao's first order of business was to ask for a gaming ID. They had talked about playing one of those large-scale online games together before, but there was nothing of the sort in Dawn Academy to entertain them.

It had been difficult for them to get an opportunity to return home, and Chen Dao's first thought was to invite Xiao Lin to play a game...

Xiao Lin wiped the sweat from his forehead and gave Chen Dao his ID in a dumbfounded manner. However, he also reminded Chen Dao that there was a lot for him to do after going back and that he might not have time to play any online games...

Two days later, there were not too many freshmen left and the rest were basically those who failed the assessment. It was worth mentioning that the passing rate of that year's freshmen was the lowest ever. The news that Xiao Lin got from Song Junlang was that only 60% passed, which meant that more than 300 people had to stay back in the academy.

Gu Xiaoyue finally started packing her things up. After meeting up with Xiao Lin, he noticed that she was holding a couple of books and was briefly lost for words before asking, "Do you plan to read books all day after you go back?"

"What else can I do?" Gu Xiaoyue looked at him strangely.

“It’s a holiday. It might be good to keep your sister some company.”

“But she’s in class.”

“Class? It’s January, so I think it’s going to be winter vacation... Ah, you’re right.” The hapless Xiao Lin realized the time difference meant that it was probably around April or May on Earth, which was still schooling time.

“What are you still thinking about?” After taking two steps forward, Gu Xiaoyue noticed that Xiao Lin was still standing there and looking suspiciously at him.

Xiao Lin hurriedly followed. He was actually thinking about whether to invite Gu Xiaoyue to travel or something, and in the end, he gritted his teeth and made the invitation. Although he received the rejection that he had expected, she seemed even more surprised than he was and even showed disdain for his time-wasting action.

Indeed, traveling might just be a meaningless waste of life for someone with a life span of only two years.

Chapter 404 - On the Way Home

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A routine inspection was held before students could enter the train plaza. Although there were not many people, it was probably the first time that the freshmen returned to Earth, so additional staff were stationed to help with the inspection. It was a very solemn and strict affair, and Xiao Lin—who was lining up at the far back—noticed that someone near the start of the line had been stopped.

Although the student union had formulated rules for returning to Earth, there would always be someone who would try to violate those rules. There were many people who wanted to quietly bring some magic props back just to show off, but they were all stunned witless when the student union inspected them like an enemy.

Xiao Lin was also very nervous. He promised to bring Silverlight back. Other than ensuring that Silverlight herself would not affect Earth’s spatial balance, he also had to worry whether the spatial ring could be brought back with him when it was strictly a magical equipment.

When it was Xiao Lin’s turn, he discovered that it was an acquaintance who came to do the inspection that day. It was Gu Fantian, a sophomore senior who was in charge of guiding the freshmen when Xiao Lin first enrolled, and was seen working in the library later on too. Xiao Lin could not help but smile, “You seem to be everywhere.”

Gu Fantian shook hands with Xiao Lin very cordially and responded with a smile, “I can’t help it when I’m short of money. It’d be good to work and earn a little since I have some free time during this holiday.”

Xiao Lin nodded. He also knew that someone like Gu Fantian who was not a cadre at any level would receive a certain subsidy if he worked in the student union, though the work itself was very cumbersome of course. Since Xiao Lin was being inspected by an acquaintance, it was only natural that Xiao Lin acted in a more friendly manner.

The spatial ring could not be considered a prop that disrupted the balance of space, but since the most stringent regulations were enforced for the freshman in light of the exception that the academy afforded them, Xiao Lin did not know how to express himself in such a public place.

Gu Fantian was a smart person. When he came over with the testing instrument and started chatting with Xiao Lin, he had already noticed something from Xiao Lin's expression and said with a smile, "This isn't the first time you've taken the spatial carriage. I'm sure the student union already reminded you, so there's no need for me to say much about these regulations. Alright then, you may pass."

Xiao Lin gave a grateful look and appreciated it. He deliberately mentioned the student union just to seat up other people's mouths. That Xiao Lin had connections within the academy was not a big secret. Even though many people did not know where that relationship stemmed from, it was enough to shut the mouths of those who were present there.

Gu Xiaoyue's inspection went without a hitch as well. Books were considered one of the few things that could be taken back. The Normese text on it might attract the attention of ordinary people on Earth, but ordinary people would simply assume it was an alien language and the person reading it were either a lunatic or mentally unfit.

There were very few people taking the spatial carriage today and all of them chatted excitedly. After Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue got on the carriage, they all said hello even though Xiao Lin had no idea who they were.

"Does this spatial carriage travel through a wormhole?"

"Will it be dangerous?"

"The academy didn't seem to have specified anything."

Several people were discussing nervously and groped around with their hands, as if they wanted to use something as support. However, none of those things were present or necessary.

Xiao Lin was going to explain to Gu Xiaoyue about the spatial carriage all along, and while he did so, he also briefly explained things to the others. For example, one could hardly feel any movement when the spatial carriage was moving and there was no need to worry about things like bumps. He also explained about the gold-like timesand.

Having taken the spatial carriage several times, Xiao Lin looked very calm, but he was very curious about Gu Xiaoyue's expression. To his regret, although several other people made exaggerated exclamations in the process, Gu Xiaoyue remained as composed as usual. However, she then stretched out her hands in an attempt to catch the golden sand particles floating through the air. Of course, timesand was pure energy that could not be held.

Once the carriage arrived 20 minutes later, the inside plunged into darkness once again. Xiao Lin noticed a near-imperceptible sigh coming from beside him, and the carriage door opened just as he was about to speak.

The exit of the spatial passage from Dawn Academy to Earth was situated on a high mountain, with a fake observatory nearby. As the person in charge of the earth branch, Mao Tianying was there to greet the students; he was the same guy that welcomed Xiao Lin during the previous trip to Earth. Mao Tianying did not forget Xiao Lin of course, and after getting off the carriage, he immediately came over and greeted Xiao Lin enthusiastically.

“I heard that you’re now a monitor and you’ve even been to the New World. You’re an interesting person, and I didn’t even notice the last time we met.” Mao Tianying’s enthusiasm was quite flattering, but it was to be expected. Although Mao Tianying was responsible for the Earth Division, but for the simple fact that Dawn Academy placed so much importance on the New World, his position was probably worth less than Song Junlang as a department head.

Mao Tianying’s enthusiasm toward the other people was only perfunctory. For example, after leading everyone down the long stairs out of the mountain, he half-heartedly invited everyone to visit the nearby surroundings. However, there was nothing else to see other than an observatory on the top of that barren mountain, and it was still daytime too, which meant that there was no way they could use the telescope.

Before going down the mountain, Mao Tianying was also responsible for delivering the money that everyone had exchanged their points for. At the academy, the student union has already counted the number of RMB to be exchanged with each person, and the list was then handed over to Mao Tianying. Anything less than 10,000 RMB will be given in cash on the spot, but a card would be issued if it exceeded that amount.

To be more precise, Gu Xiaoyue was the only one among the dozens of people there who held a small pile of cash. Everyone else basically had a bank card in their hand. According to the regulations of the student union, the maximum limit of RMB one million was no more than 1,000 exchange points. After more than four months, most people’s monthly exams and daily attendance rewards were a lot of money when added up, so they could still afford to get that kind of money.

The Earth Division also thoughtfully prepared a vehicle for them to descend the mountain, but the only choice for the rest of the people was a bus. When it came to Xiao Lin, Mao Tianying enthusiastically invited him to get on his brand-new Mercedes-Benz sports car, which Xiao Lin did not refuse. Gu Xiaoyue was also invited. She blushed, but compared to a bumpy bus, she was obviously more than happy to ride in a comfortable Mercedes.

“This is a new car.” Xiao Lin did away with the pleasantries after getting in the car. He remembered that the vehicles there were very old when he returned the last time.

“It’s all thanks to you!” Mao Tianying gasped. “An exception was made for freshmen like you to come back, so the academy made a special payment for us to update the equipment and vehicles too. They’re to welcome you here.”

“That bus?” Gu Xiaoyue turned her head and asked abruptly.

Mao Tianying immediately coughed and Xiao Lin smiled helplessly. He obviously used a very small amount of money to buy a bus that would not be used again after that day, and instead used a larger portion of the money to buy that Mercedes-Benz sports car for himself.

Chapter 405 - A Couple of Things to Do When Home (1)

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Along the way, Mao Tianying nagged and complained about how difficult the Earth Division's work was. He told Xiao Lin and the others never to return to Earth if they had a choice in the future.

"Don't look at me and think that all this is very relaxing. In fact, there's plenty of things I have to do, whether it's enrollment or surveillance. I also have to deal with other academies on Earth, as well as the government. I must be very careful when dealing with all that, but it just so happens that I don't have any authority for many of those things. As long as something a little more serious happens, I'll have to report it back and wait for orders from above."

Xiao Lin had a sudden thought and asked, "I remember you mentioning surveillance last time. How do you monitor the students' movements in various cities?"

Mao Tianying turned around while driving and uttered a sneaky chuckle. "This is a violation of the rules. Ordinary students aren't qualified to ask about this."

His expression was not very stern and he had a good relationship with Song Junlang, so Xiao Lin did not feel too pressured and chuckled in response. "I'm just asking. You don't need to take it seriously."

Mao Tianying thought about it for a moment and replied, "It's actually very simple. The spatial law of Earth's plane doesn't have any spells or sword skills. If you use any power that exceeds the rules in this world, it's like dropping a stone into this calm space. We have special equipment to monitor any ripples caused by that fluctuation and we can then quickly locate the source."

"Have there been any students who violated the rules before? Well, I mean in the past few years."

Mao Tianying glanced at him, then at Gu Xiaoyue, and hesitated before continuing, "Yes! Of course! Now that the students have abilities that surpass ordinary people, there will always be people who want to show off and after coming back. In fact, most of the unexplained mysteries were caused by our people. Of course, that includes other academies too. It's a real headache for us, but in recent years, every academy has increased the penalties for violations, which lessened these kinds of things."

After a moment, Mao Tianying smiled and said, "Don't make things hard for me. If I find that you violated the rules, I won't spare you and will certainly report it as it is."

“What’s the bottom line for a violation?” Xiao Lin wanted to make things clear. “For example, I suddenly encountered someone blocking me, robbing me, and even causing danger to my body. In that case, I can’t just sit and wait to die. I’d definitely have to act on it.”

Mao Tianying groaned. “Special circumstances call for special analysis. We only report to inform the top brass about it, and the final processing result will be carried out by the student union.”

Xiao Lin nodded. It was only then that he felt a little relieved. If it was just the student union who would make the final judgement, then he would certainly know what was going on.

The two chatted casually, and Mao Tianying considered talking to Gu Xiaoyue, as he had obviously heard of that name before. However, Gu Xiaoyue had no interest in the person in charge of the Earth Division. She did not reply much except for some mechanical, patronizing, one-syllable replies.

They arrived at the nearest airport a few hours later. According to the regulations, other students would only be sent to the nearest bus station at most. After that, it was each person for themselves. Xiao Lin knew that he and Gu Xiaoyue were going back by plane, so he pleaded with Mao Tianying, who was more than happy to help with that little favor.

“Remember! The vacation is only for ten days. If you don’t return to the academy after that, you will be held accountable. Don’t think that you won’t ever have to come back. The academy is far more powerful than you think. No matter how you hide on Earth, there’s always a way to find you, even if it means going to the ends of the Earth.” Mao Tianying did not forget to warn them before leaving.

Of course, neither Xiao Lin nor Gu Xiaoyue were worried about it. Xiao Lin wanted to accompany Gu Xiaoyue back at once, but he knew that he had to go home first as the thoughts of his parents had been lingering in his mind for a very long time. After bidding farewell to Gu Xiaoyue, Xiao Lin found an inconspicuous corner and took out the cell phone he received from Mao Tianying to dial Song Junlang’s number.

He had to acknowledge that Mao Tianying received a big sum of money on that occasion. He remembered that the cell phone he received the last time around was an old Nokia, but it had upgraded right up to Apple.

Xiao Lin remembered Song Junlang’s phone number on Earth and dialed it after some time, though he was slightly speechless to hear Song Junlang’s yawning voice. Even if Earth’s cell phones did not have magic imaging functions, he could guess that Song Junlang had just woken up at that moment. It could even be Xiao Lin who woke him up with that call.

In any case, it was already midday, so Xiao Lin asked helplessly, “Did I call at a wrong time?”

“DUH! I’ve been busy all night and you woke me up before I could have a good rest!” Song Junlang was noticeably irritated after his sleep was disturbed.

“You were up all night? Why do I feel like you’re busier right now than when you’re in the academy?”

“Well, I plan to go to Hawaii tomorrow.”

“Huh? Hawaii?” Xiao Lin’s eyelids twitched. “Didn’t you say you wanted to meet Gu Xiaoyue’s sister?”

“That’s not much of a hurry for the time being. You have a ten-day holiday anyway. I found something interesting in Hawaii this time around and I plan to check it out.”

“Why did I suddenly get the chills after hearing you saying that it’s interesting?”

“Do you want to go together and have a look? I can book a plane ticket for you.” Song Junlang invited him cordially.

“No, I’ll go home first.”

“Well then, enjoy your holiday.”

Xiao Lin was puzzled after hanging up the call. He initially wanted to pry some secrets about Gu Xiaoyue and her sister’s life from Song Junlang, but the guy seemed to have found something more worthy of attention and decided to set aside that matter for the time being.

Finally, it was time to embark on the journey home. It had been half a year since he last returned, and Xiao Lin could not even call home during that time, so it was natural that he would be worried. He bought a few large packages of various health supplements on the way home. Before leaving the academy, Xiao Lin exchanged his points for the one million RMB maximum limit. He was not too worried about losing that little bit of redemption points, considering the total amount he had at his disposal.

Although the town was small and not as prosperous as a big city, walking on its streets brought up memories of Xiao Lin’s familiar childhood life. He even met several acquaintances in the course of his walk.

“Isn’t this Lin Lin? Why are you suddenly home today!”

“Aunt Zhang! Yeah, it’s been a long time since I’ve been home. I asked my boss for a long vacation this week to come back and pay a visit.”

“Your mother said that you’re doing well outside.”

“So far so good.”

“Any girlfriends?”

“It’s still early. I’m in no rush.”

“You shouldn’t be too relaxed over it. My daughter just graduated this year. Should I introduce you both to each other?”

...

Xiao Lin used to grow up playing around in the neighborhood when he was a child. Everyone's warm greetings made Xiao Lin feel overwhelmed, especially after many people tried to offer their daughters to him. Xiao Lin had no choice but to run away whenever that happened, and most people could not even catch up even though he was carrying lots of heavy bags.

Chapter 406 - A Couple of Things to Do When Home (2)

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Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

Xiao Lin felt incredibly comfortable to see Familiar lanes, familiar floors, his parent's surprise and enthusiasm, as well as the strong familial affection. Perhaps the many experiences he had in the New World made him cherish the feeling of home even more.

The dinner was specially prepared by his mother. Although Xiao Lin repeatedly stated that she did not need to cook that much, the table was soon filled with an abundance of delicacies.

"You never even called in the past six months. Even if your signal is not good, you can still write a letter!" Although his mother was complaining, her tone was not that serious.

After coming back, Xiao Lin immediately gave the bank card with a million RMB to his parents. He kept about 10,000 RMB for himself as funds to use on Earth for the next couple of days.

There was no doubt that Xiao Lin was already a successful person in the eyes of his parents, and during the meal, his parents would certainly bring up topics that they felt was something to be concerned about.

"Is there anyone you like out there?"

"Not yet."

"By the way, Uncle Wang's daughter stood out to me the other day. She's working overseas too, and I think she came home about two days ago. Since you both are both here, we might as well seize this moment to introduce you two to each other."

"I'm still young, Mom, so I'm not in a hurry."

"How can you not be in a hurry! I want to hug my grandson a little earlier. Sigh, this is something I really look forward to at this point in my life. You could be a little considerate of your mother, you know."

Xiao Lin felt a headache coming on. Ever since he graduated from university, her calls for him to get married were made every two or three months, and his mother showed no signs of stopping even though he had gone to Dawn Academy.

“Your mother and I met her yesterday. She looks decent and her dad also has a good temper. We were just casually talking about it yesterday and we didn’t expect you to come back today. I think it’s settled then. Since it’s rare for you to be back home, you should get to know each other tomorrow,” his taciturn but stoic father spoke clearly.

“She might not fancy me,” Xiao Lin was still trying to escape, but his statement was not entirely untrue. The Uncle Wang mentioned by his mother was originally their neighbor. When Xiao Lin was very young, he frequently heard his parents joking about marrying him to Uncle Wang’s daughter in the future.

However, their daughter Wang Yuelan reportedly found a very good job about two years ago. When she first returned home, she bought an expensive villa in the suburbs for her parents to move in. It caused a sensation in town when that happened. Everyone thought that the Wang family got lucky and their daughter finally had a promising future.

Xiao Lin and Wang Yuelan were considered acquaintances, but the two of them have basically lost contact after going to university. After all, their relationship was nothing more than normal, albeit slightly distant, friends. Back then, both families’ aspirations for Wang Yuelan and Xiao Lin to be related through marriage was in jest. After the Wang family became richer, Xiao Lin’s parents thought that the Wang family might even look down on their own family.

Now that it was brought up again, Xiao Lin naturally expressed his opposition without hesitation. Whatever the case may be, he did not want to go on a blind date.

However, when the mother’s nagging gradually turned into a plea, Xiao Lin had to agree softly. Like every parent who urged marriage, Xiao Lin could only passively accept it, but he hinted that he would try to contact Wang Yuelan first. After all, they had not been in contact for many years even though they were acquainted with each other.

After all, he would only have about ten days before he had to leave, but there was no harm in getting to know a friend from his childhood before leaving. With that, Xiao Lin had decided on his plan.

The parents were very concerned about this. After receiving Xiao Lin’s approval, they called Uncle Wang directly and asked for Wang Yuelan’s contact information. Xiao Lin’s mother even arranged a time for Xiao Lin to meet Wang Yuelan, even to the extent of arranging the exact location. Fortunately, his father was still quite sensible, as he said that the young people’s affairs should be handled by themselves, which allowed Xiao Lin to breathe a sigh of relief.

“This is Yuelan’s phone number and QQ ID. Yuelan is a nice child. You must be more thoughtful. Why not just meet in the city? Our town is too small and there aren’t any places to have fun.” Xiao Lin’s mother was still planning for him.

Xiao Lin found the whole thing absolutely troublesome. He had the sudden impulse to follow Song Junlang to Hawaii. Whatever he was doing there must surely be better than a forced blind date.

His mother’s repeated urging forced him to download an app on his mobile phone. He then logged in, and a lot of messages flashed on QQ since he had not used it for a long time. They were mostly former classmates and friends. After graduation, everyone’s contact with each other lessened, and those connections were completely severed after Xiao Lin went to Dawn Academy.

Xiao Lin still missed his time at university and cherished the friends he had met. Even though he still considered himself to be living a school life, he readily responded to every message. In fact, most of them were nothing more than asking how he was or invitations to parties and the like.

After finishing all that, Xiao Lin thought about it and added Wang Yuelan's QQ. She was also online at that moment, and his friend request was accepted in seconds. She took the initiative to send a smiley face and a string of text: [We haven't seen each other for a long time, Brother Xiao Lin. How are you doing?]

Xiao Lin was half a year older than her. The way Wang Yuelan addressed him reminded him of the things in his childhood and his heart felt slightly warm. Although they had not seen each other in many years, they felt that close right away. The polite greetings and mutual inquiries lasted for a while. For a while.

Wang Yuelan claimed to be currently working in a foreign company out of town, and because she went abroad all the year round, she rarely had time to rest. Xiao Lin heard her insinuation and immediately stated that the meeting was forced upon him and he agreed just to appease his parents. Wang Yuelan seemed to acknowledge that as well.

To put it bluntly, Wang Yuelan said that she was busy with her career and had no plans to find a boyfriend or even start a family, but apparently her family also exerted a lot of pressure. As a girl, Wang Yuelan was undoubtedly under more pressure than Xiao Lin, which troubled her and led her to agree to meeting Xiao Lin.

[Brother Xiao Lin, if it's alright, I'll pick you up tomorrow. We can rant a bit and meet up while we're at it.]

[Sure.] Xiao Lin did not refuse. Since he was home, the least he could do was set his parents at ease. The ten-day vacation was still very long, so he had to find something to do.

The next day, Wang Yuelan came to pick up Xiao Lin as expected. She drove her brand-new baby to Xiao Lin's house. Xiao Lin expected it, but after getting in the car, he joked, "You're putting me under a lot of pressure."

Wang Yuelan was not the stereotypical hot chick, but she stood out with her fair face, short hair, full eyebrows, light makeup, and a mature black professional dress that was easy on the eyes.

After getting in the car, Xiao Lin observed Wang Yuelan from the corner of his eyes, but found it difficult to notice any semblance of the Wang Yuelan he remembered from his childhood memories.

Chapter 407 - A Spontaneous Confession

Chapter 407: A Spontaneous Confession

Wang Yuelan looked at Xiao Lin too, but she looked away much earlier than Xiao Lin. She was more confused than anything, because although Xiao Lin did not differ that much from what she remembered of him, there was still this odd feeling that she could not put her finger on.

“Brother Xiao Lin, there’s a new café in the city that’s not too bad. We can have a seat there.” Wang Yuelan addressed him very naturally, but her tone was quite assertive. She made that decision directly without consulting Xiao Lin, but he did not mind that much anyway.

The two of them were relatively silent during the drive as they tried to find a common topic. For example, they asked each other about college life and work, but the both of them soon sensed the obviously half-hearted replies from each other, making it difficult to further the conversation.

The small town where Xiao Lin is located is a very remote suburb, and after more than an hour’s drive to a place close to the city center, Wang Yuelan brought Xiao Lin to the quiet café after parking the car.

The café was newly opened and there were few people, but the environment was very good. After entering the door, a waiter enthusiastically came to the door to greet her, “Miss Wang, glad to have you visiting us again.”

“I’ll just get my usual coffee.” Wang Yuelan pursed her lips and turned her head to look towards Xiao Lin.

“Uh, I don’t normally drink coffee. I’ll just have a glass of water.”

Wang Yuelan froze and nodded to the waiter.

After sitting down at the corner table, Xiao Lin gently sipped his water and was thinking about what to say. His initial purpose of going on that blind date was simply to please his parents, and it was not as though he had any other ideas.

Wang Yuelan took the initiative to speak. Her tone was very direct, “Let’s date.”

“What?”

Xiao Lin was stunned, but immediately reacted, “Is this an act?”

Wang Yuelan cocked her eyebrow and said with a smile, “What’s wrong? You’re not serious about wooing me, are you?”

“No, I don’t have that intention.” Xiao Lin waved his hand quickly.

Wang Yuelan pursed her lips and she had a faintly displeased expression. That was the case with women. Even though he did not have any intention of wooing her, it was inevitable that she would feel slightly bitter after receiving such a decisive, face-to-face rejection.

However, Wang Yuelan quickly concealed her fleeting expression and continued, “If I have a boyfriend, I can at least explain myself to my family. I’m almost never at home throughout the year and I don’t want my family to be that worried. What about your family??”

“More or less the same. My mom is rushing me, but my dad isn’t giving me too much pressure.”

“Hehe, you’re a man, so it’s only natural that there isn’t much pressure. Sigh, I’ll become an old woman soon.”

“Heh, don’t you have a boyfriend?”

“I had one when I was in college, but we broke up after graduation.”

...

The two of them finally had something to talk about. After all, they were longtime friends who were not that much of a stranger to each other. Wang Yuelan even mentioned had it not been for Xiao Lin’s coincidental return, she originally planned to rent a boyfriend online to help her deal with her parents. However, since she had an acquaintance at her disposal, she did not have to put in too much effort.

“Aren’t you afraid of being deceived?” Xiao Lin also read many similar situations from online news portals. He would never use that method to rent a girlfriend and he was also worried that Wang Yuelan would be deceived.

“Me? Deceived? I’ll make sure anyone who does that to me will suffer!” Wang Yuelan said domineeringly, and after a pause, she asked again, “What do you think, Brother Xiao Lin? I’m only going to go back about once a year at most. My request is very simple. All you should do is keep me company at home during those few days. You’re completely free at other times, and your business is none of my business.”

Wang Yuelan took a sip of the fragrant coffee and added, “If you still find it awkward, I can give you some remuneration every year. Please don’t get me wrong, this is just a normal business deal.”

Xiao Lin frowned and said in a half-joking, half-serious tone, “I don’t provide escort services.”

“Sorry, I was just throwing that around,” Wang Yuelan ended the topic decisively and apologized.

“Well, we’ll just do it like this. Since we’re meeting each other right now, we can just elaborate on our date to our parents however we want. At least we can deal with them this time.” That was the reason Xiao Lin accepted the invitation. All he wanted was to enjoy his holiday without worrying, since he would not be able to manage future affairs when he returned to Dawn Academy.

“Alright, but it’s a shame I’ll be staying in the country for a bit longer this year. Sigh, I’m afraid my parents will pester me to death,” Wang Yuelan muttered. She did not object, but she seemed somewhat distressed that she could not solve her problem once and for all.

The two of them chatted casually again, but they both seemed absent-minded, or rather, they did not have much in common. After all, Xiao Lin could not possibly talk to her about his life in Dawn Academy.

When the atmosphere was getting more awkward, Wang Yuelan’s cell phone rang suddenly. She glanced at the number, then glanced at Xiao Lin apologetically, before trotting to a secluded corner and answering the call. After a few minutes, she came back with a smile and said, “I’m sorry, but there’s something urgent with my company. I’m afraid I have to rush there.”

“Don’t you need to go home first?”

“No, I’ll call home directly later, umm, but you have to take a taxi and go back by yourself.”

“It’s fine.”

“Mm, see you next time then! We’ll keep in touch!” Wang Yuelan did not seem too hesitant either.

“Bye.”

The two of them soon parted ways in front of the café. The short meeting did not leave much of an impression on Xiao Lin and he believed that it was unlikely for him to meet her again in the future. Judging from Wang Yuelan’s expression, it was obvious that she basically had the same thoughts as him. Meanwhile, Xiao Lin’s cell phone number would be invalidated when he returned to Dawn Academy.

On the way home, Xiao Lin took the opportunity to call Gu Xiaoyue and Song Junlang separately. Song Junlang could not be reached, and he guessed that the man had already boarded the plane to Hawaii at that moment. Gu Xiaoyue’s call was connected though. Perhaps the date with Wang Yuelan, which could not actually be regarded as a date, prompted him to be reminded about Gu Xiaoyue.

“What is it?” Gu Xiaoyue’s cold voice was vividly expressed on the phone.

“Uh, nothing, I just feel bored all of a sudden and I wanted to call you.”

“You really are bored, aren’t you...?”

“Be my girlfriend, Gu Xiaoyue...” Xiao Lin felt a rush in his brain and burst into that sentence. However, he regretted it as soon as he said that.

Xiao Lin waited nervously. There was a long silence on the other end of the phone. Just as he thought that Gu Xiaoyue had hung up, she said, “Have you gone crazy today? Even if you’re bored, please don’t make such stupid jokes!”

Gu Xiaoyue’s voice seemed to be a little angry and slightly faltering too. In fact, even Xiao Lin did not expect himself to ask that question out of the blue. Maybe it was his parent’s constant urging of going on blind dates that deepened the thoughts circling inside his heart, or perhaps he just had enough excuses that day to justify himself if she rejected him.

Chapter 408 - The Encounter at The Fine Arts Academy

Chapter 408: The Encounter at The Fine Arts Academy

“Uh, it’s actually like this,” Xiao Lin quickly began to explain. Perhaps that was the best explanation he could offer for his whimsical confession that day.

“When I went home, my parents kept on nagging me to go on a blind date. You know the situation we’re in. We can only go back to Earth for a few days every year. Even if I wanted to, it’s impossible to find a girlfriend on Earth...but it’s hard to explain to my parents. I don’t want them to worry about it...so, uh, I just want you to do me a little favor.”

Xiao Lin spoke a little incoherently, but he eventually expressed his meaning clearly. He was still a little disappointed though, as it was the first time that he ever made a confession in his entire life. While he did have crushes on several people since he was still a kid, it was actually the first time that he actually made a proper confession.

Xiao Lin was feeling quite incredulous himself. The time he spent with Gu Xiaoyue had not been that long actually, only about four months since they enrolled. Half of that time was spent in the New World too, and the chances for him to actually meet and chat with Gu Xiaoyue were far and few in between. In spite of all that however, he gradually started to feel an attraction to her.

Perhaps it was due to Gu Xiaoyue’s unique character, or perhaps he just felt pity for that extremely talented woman who had only two years left in her life span. It might even be love at first sight. The point was that he did not know, and it was difficult to find definitive reasons to explain something like feelings.

However, because their interactions were too few and too short, Gu Xiaoyue’s refusal was expected. Had it not been for the excuse that Xiao Lin coincidentally had, he would not have spoken in the first place.

The phone fell silent again, but after ten seconds, Gu Xiaoyue’s voice rang in due course, “If it’s just to deal with your parents, then sure, but it’s only limited to this ten-day vacation!”

“Hmm?”

Xiao Lin was stunned for even longer. Even though he had given due thought to the excuse, he did not think that Gu Xiaoyue would accept it. At most, the excuse would just absolve him of his reckless confession and prevent their relationship from being further affected.

Nevertheless, Gu Xiaoyue was as unpredictable as always. She agreed! She actually agreed!

Gu Xiaoyue clearly had something else to say, and although she tried to keep her voice as calm as ever, she was still unable to hide a slight tremor. “But don’t overthink. I’m just repaying your favor so I won’t have to owe you in the future!”

What favor did Xiao Lin owe Gu Xiaoyue?

Maybe it was the help he gave her during the monthly exam, or the previous occasion when she helped deliver the letter to her sister? Perhaps it was the previous exam when he promised Gu Xiaoyue to take care of her sister in case something happened?

Xiao Lin himself was also confused, as he could not remember which exact favor Gu Xiaoyue owed him. However, logic told him that it was better to pretend to be confused at that moment.

“I’ll hang up then if there’s nothing else.”

“Wait, I’ll look for you during these two days.”

“What?”

“Why don’t you come to my house?”

“N-no!”

Gu Xiaoyue’s voice became hurried, and it was obvious that she had not yet adapted to the sudden change in status. Of course, she felt that there was no need for things to change since she only treated it as a casual promise, but Xiao Lin did not want the relationship between the two to be limited to ten days only.

Xiao Lin did not know whether to laugh or cry. “But you just promised.”

Gu Xiaoyue finally compromised. “Okay, okay, I understand. Then, maybe you should come over.”

...

Xiao Lin looked very excited after returning home. When his mother asked what happened during the date, she found out that her son already had a girlfriend. That the person was not Wang Yuelan did not matter much for her. As a mother, she was undoubtedly happy, but she still felt half-skeptical about it.

As a result, Xiao Lin dialed Gu Xiaoyue’s phone number and handed it to his mother while Gu Xiaoyue was still in a daze. After that, Xiao Lin had no idea what the two women talked about on the phone, but from the expression of his mother’s smile, the call was undoubtedly more successful than he imagined.

“It’s such a pity for Yuelan.”

“Mom, it’s not like Wang Yuelan and I are really familiar with each other.”

“Never mind then. When will you bring that Gu Xiaoyue to our home?”

“It’s still early.”

“Don’t bully her alright. Sigh, I can finally breathe a sigh of relief.”

“Mom, don’t worry about me from now on. Just enjoy your good fortune with Dad.”

The gratifying smiles of his parents warmed Xiao Lin’s heart. Whatever the future had in store for him, that place would always be his home. He did not have the heart to see his parents fret over him and he did not want them to feel that way either.

After staying at home for two days, Xiao Lin was prepared to set off to Gu Xiaoyue’s hometown. In fact, he planned to stay home for two more days, since it was quite early in the vacation. However,

after his mother knew that he had a girlfriend, she started to rush him, saying that he should keep his girlfriend company during his vacation as he did not have time to keep in contact with her due to being busy with work.

Xiao Lin, who had no idea how to react, could only set off early. Midway through his journey, he was about to buy a plane ticket when he received a call from Gu Xiaoyue. She told him to go directly to the fine arts academy because she was going to the academy to visit her sister today that day.

Xiao Lin felt that it was a bit unfortunate. Gu Xiaoyue probably did not want to be alone at home with him, so she went to the fine arts academy as an excuse. Although Xiao Lin was actually looking forward to seeing how she would act when the two of them were alone together, it was not that big of a deal. In fact, Xiao Lin had initially planned to make time for visiting her sister during that vacation.

Xiao Lin bought some gifts along the way. He knew that Gu Xiaoyue did not lack money at home, and there was no need to buy expensive stuff, but the gift was not meant for Gu Xiaoyue. He chose a relatively high-end fountain pen as a gift for her sister.

It was midday when he arrived at the fine arts academy. Because it was a weekend, there were few people in the academy. Gu Xiaoyue's sister Gu Chengyun was paralyzed from the waist down, so it was impossible for her to go out and enjoy herself like the other ordinary academy students, even on weekends. Although the time he set with Gu Xiaoyue was around noon, it just so happened that a torrential rain in the morning delayed Gu Xiaoyue's flight, causing her to only arrive around noon.

However, Gu Xiaoyue had notified Xiao Lin that she had told Gu Chengyun about their visit, so since Xiao Lin was the first to arrive, he went straight to look for Gu Chengyun. It had not been long since his last visit and Xiao Lin still remembered the location of Gu Chengyun's preferred studio.

What if she was in the dormitory? In any case, Xiao Lin could not possibly go into the girls' dormitory.

However, Xiao Lin's prediction was spot on. Even if the lively and cheerful girl could not leave campus during the weekend, she would definitely express her inner feelings in the studio.

A floor below the studio, a familiar figure flashed in the corner of Xiao Lin's eyes the moment he turned and walked into the corridor from the stairs. After a couple seconds of shock, he called out softly in an unsure tone, "Wang Yuelan?"

Chapter 409 - Gu Chengyun's Painting

Chapter 409: Gu Chengyun's Painting

The beautiful figure froze when she heard Xiao Lin's voice. She turned out, and it was none other than Wang Yuelan, who seemed equally as surprised. Clad in a black, mature-looking professional skirt, she held a file bag in her hands and was staring right at Xiao Lin as if she had seen a ghost.

Without a doubt, it was Wang Yuelan, whom Xiao Lin had just met two days ago. Xiao Lin thought that the two of them would never meet again, but it came as a surprise that they would meet again in less than a few days.

“Why are you here?” Doubts flashed in Xiao Lin’s mind.

Wang Yuelan quickly calmed down and smiled. “My colleague’s daughter wants to take an entrance exam to this academy. I just happened to pass by this city, so I stopped by to find out more about the academy and take some photos for her to see. What about you, why are you here too? You didn’t come chasing after me, did you? How about we find a place to sit and talk, since we were in a bit of a hurry before and we haven’t had a good conversation yet?”

Her last sentence was spoken in a somewhat teasing tone, and Xiao Lin smiled back before saying, “I’m here to look for a friend. I’m afraid I can’t stand them up. Maybe next time.”

Wang Yuelan curled her lips. His refusal was a bit too direct and too straightforward, although she was simply being courteous to begin with. She did not have the time even if Xiao Lin really wanted to go out with her, so the two of them quickly bid each other farewell.

After turning around and taking a couple of steps, the two of them turned their heads around in unison and looked at each other in bewilderment. They only sped up their pace after inadvertently making awkward eye contact.

“It can’t be that coincidental, right?”

“It has to be a coincidence.”

...

Xiao Lin did find Gu Chengyun in the painting room. The ponytailed girl with a youthful smile was sitting in her wheelchair in front of the drawing board. Instead of painting however, she looked quietly out of the window and began wondering.

“Gu Chengyun?” Xiao Lin called out softly, although he still attracted the attention of others in the studio.

There were very few people in the studio on weekends, but one of the girls there smiled at Gu Chengyun and said, “There seems to be quite a lot of people who came looking for you during the past two days, Chengyun.”

Gu Chengyun came back to her senses, then turned her head, and happily called out to Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin smiled and said, “I was worried that you’d forget me.”

Gu Chengyun blinked her eyes coquettishly. “How can I forget you when you’re about to become my brother-in-law soon!”

Xiao Lin was embarrassed. He did not know what Gu Xiaoyue and Gu Chengyun talked about, but the studio was not a proper place to chat. He greeted the other people and took the initiative to

push Gu Chengyun's wheelchair. By accident, he caught a glimpse of the painting that she drew on the drawing board and helped her tidy it up as well.

"You came at just the right time. I happen to be a little tired, so could you take me to the playground and look at the scenery?" Gu Chengyun asked.

When he walked to the door, Xiao Lin suddenly had a thought. He turned around and asked the girl who had just greeted him, "You just said that there are a lot of people who were looking for Gu Chengyun in the past two days? Who else was there?"

Gu Xiaoyue told him that the two sisters had depended on each other since they were young and had neither parents, relatives, or friends. Xiao Lin wondered who else would come to Gu Chengyun, other than her own classmates.

"A woman." The girl gestured with her hands, but she couldn't accurately describe the woman's appearance. In the end she just said, "A pretty and sexy woman."

"Thank you."

There was a vague feeling in Xiao Lin's heart. He pushed Gu Chengyun and asked as he walked, "Who was the woman who came looking for you?"

"She said she wanted to meet me and because she felt emotional after hearing about me. She expressed her willingness to sponsor me, but I refused since money isn't something I lack." Gu Chengyun did not really think much about it.

Xiao Lin frowned. "What is her name? Is it Wang Yuelan?"

"I don't know, do you know her? Did you mention me to her?"

"Oh no, what I meant was that I haven't mentioned you to anyone, but, um..." Mysteries suddenly began appearing in Xiao Lin's heart. It was really strange, and the first thing that came to his mind was Wang Yuelan. After all, it was far too odd for that woman to even appear on that campus.

At that moment, Xiao Lin was a little annoyed that he did not have Wang Yuelan's photos in his hands, but it was clear that Wang Yuelan was lying to him. When she left two days ago, she said that the company was in an emergency, but two days later she said that she went to the fine arts academy to help her colleague's daughter find some information. However, it should be incredibly easy to find information about art academies in the digital age, as they were readily available on the internet.

Therein lies the question: if it really was Wang Yuelan, why would she come to meet Gu Chengyun? What was so special about Gu Chengyun?

Xiao Lin carefully looked at the paralyzed but very optimistic girl, to the point where the latter blushed and cowered slightly. Xiao Lin shook his head and casually asked what Gu Chengyun had talked about with the woman, but he did not get too many details. The two of them really did just engage in simple small talk.

“I actually thought it was a bit strange, but that young woman doesn’t seem to be malicious in any way,” Gu Chengyun explained in a comforting tone and assured that she did not completely let her guard down.

“Let’s put that aside for the moment. When did your sister say she’ll be here?” Although Xiao Lin suspicions were shooting through the roof, he did not want Gu Chengyun to worry about too much as she ought to remain happy.

“Hehe, first things first, you have to give me a detailed explanation of how you got my sister to be your girlfriend!”

“It’s just an act. I’m sure she explained it to you.”

“She did, but this isn’t like her at all. Hehe, I’m sure she really does feel something for you.”

“It’s only for ten days.” Of course, Xiao Lin did not want it to last for ten days, but he could not possibly say that in front of Gu Chengyun.

“Mhmm, I know. Just like all those TV shows.”

The speechless Xiao Lin did not know whether to laugh or to cry. He simply patted Gu Chengyun’s little head and decided not to argue with a girl who had been deeply influenced by those romance television dramas. He opened the painting that he brought from the studio and changed the subject abruptly. “Did you just finish painting this? I didn’t look closely just now. I wonder what it is?”

In the center of the painting was a large island. There were golden beaches, fine white sand, a winding coastline, coconut trees swaying in seaside wind, rugged rocks on the island, a blue sky, and turquoise water.

One had to acknowledge that Gu Chengyun had stellar painting skills. Her piece depicted the beauty of the bay in a detailed and vivid manner. Xiao Lin admired it carefully and remembered Gu Xiaoyue saying that her sister enjoyed painting pictures of scenery around the world as a way to make up for her regret of not being able to travel.

He smiled and asked curiously, “Where is this in your painting?”

“Hawaii.”

Gu Chengyun seemed to have a moment of hesitation, which Xiao Lin keenly noticed. He asked, “What’s wrong? You don’t seem to like this painting very much?”

“No. This painting is actually still unfinished.”

Elite Mages' Academy

Chapter 410: Unfinished Painting

“No. This painting is actually still unfinished.”

Xiao Lin thought it was his sudden arrival that disturbed her, so he immediately apologized, “Sorry, it seems that I didn’t come at the right time. I’ll send you back to continue painting.”

“No, you didn’t bother me. I was actually hesitating whether or not to paint at the time.”

“Why not? Did you run out of ideas?”

Gu Chengyun pouted and stretched out his fingers to draw. Xiao Lin immediately handed the painting over. Gu Chengyun hesitated for a moment and pointed to the outermost circle of the painting.

Xiao Lin found out that although the painting could be considered complete, it was not entirely finished yet, because the circle around the drawing paper was still blank. Though it seems clear that the painting was not yet completed, those blank places were nothing more than blue sky and sea water in Xiao Lin’s eyes.

“Do you want to finish the painting?” Xiao Lin was curious. Clearly, the girl would not be that distressed if it was just the sea and sky.

“I don’t know.” Gu Chengyun still shook her head and blinked. “I think it’s a bit outrageous, so I don’t want to continue.”

“Then stop painting.” Xiao Lin knelt down and said with a smile, “Painting should be something happy. If it makes you uncomfortable, then you should stop.”

“But...” Gu Chengyun still seemed hesitant.

Xiao Lin did not force anything and simply pushed Gu Chengyun to the field. About an hour later, Gu Xiaoyue—sporting a light-colored shirt and jeans—finally arrived. After both sides met, she blushed a little when she saw Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin’s initial purpose of the visit was to chat with the sisters and go sightseeing. Since a vacation was hard to come by, it was only natural that he would want to take it easy. However, he had plenty of suspicions at that moment, so the first thing he did was tell Gu Xiaoyue about the mysterious woman who looked for Gu Chengyun. Needless to say, he stopped short of saying that he knew Wang Yuelan, because he was still unsure whether it was Wang Yuelan or not.

Although Gu Xiaoyue was usually very indifferent, she was extremely worried when it came to Gu Chengyun. Her expression changed immediately after hearing that, and after thinking for less than a few seconds, she said decisively, “Chengyun, you should come home with me!”

“But it’s not the holiday yet,” Gu Chengyun objected.

“No! I’ll explain to the academy that it isn’t safe for you to stay here for the time being. Be obedient, go home with me. You can paint at home too!” Gu Xiaoyue had a serious tone.

“I don’t want to!” Gu Chengyun glared in response. She was obviously not very afraid of her elder sister.

Xiao Lin glanced left and right, then pondered for a moment before smiling bitterly, “Aren’t you being too sensitive, Gu Xiaoyue? According to Gu Chengyun, the woman did not show any hostility or malice. It won’t be good to act rashly when there’s nothing concrete and just being Chengyun out of the academy.”

He understood how Gu Chengyun felt. As a girl who was confined to a wheelchair even though she should be in the prime of her youth, she would certainly cherish her present life, current friends and classmates even more.

If Gu Chengyun was asked to leave and go home, she would be the only one left in the house after Gu Xiaoyue and Xiao Lin left. While there might be a nanny to take care of her, that alone could not possibly alleviate the loneliness in her heart.

Of course, Xiao Lin also understood where Gu Xiaoyue was coming from. They could only stay on Earth for ten days at most, after which they would have returned to Dawn Academy. Anything that happened to Gu Chengyun by then was no longer within their control.

Of course, Gu Chengyun refused to just leave the academy like that. The two sisters started arguing on the field. It was the first time that Xiao Lin saw Gu Xiaoyue being so emotional, and he found it quite strange even though she was simply worried about that mysterious woman having any bad intentions.

Although the entire thing was odd in itself, he similarly felt that Gu Xiaoyue’s reaction was rather big. After thinking for a moment and realizing that he did not come that far just to hear the two sisters quarrel, Xiao Lin felt that he ought to do something. Going to the root of the problem was the best way to end all that trouble, so if he wanted to dispel Gu Xiaoyue’s worries, the first thing he had to do was figure out that woman’s intentions.

“I’ll try my best to find that woman. In fact, we just need to find out where she’s from,” Xiao Lin suddenly interjected.

The two women glared at Xiao Lin. Xiao Lin laughed dryly and calmed the atmosphere. “It isn’t easy for the both of you to get together. Who knows when you’ll be able to meet again next time? Can’t you guys just have a nice conversation? Don’t worry about it. Just leave it to me!”

Gu Xiaoyue’s expression eased and Xiao Lin’s reminder calmed her down. She was a very sensible woman who understood her own situation. Her chances of meeting Gu Chengyun would only decrease in the future and she could not help but show an apologetic look.

Xiao Lin bid farewell to the two sisters for the time being. He said he would look for the mysterious woman, but he did not divulge that he might know her and the two sisters did not follow up either.

“Oh, by the way, your sister still hasn’t finished her painting. I guess I disturbed her. Don’t quarrel with her again and let her finish her painting.”

After ending his sentence, Xiao Lin left by himself.

“I hope Wang Yuelan hasn’t gone far...”

Xiao Lin whispered to himself along the way and took out his mobile phone. He then dialed Wang Yuelan's number after a moment's hesitation. The call was quickly connected, and her tone was as cordial as ever, "Brother Xiao Lin? I didn't expect you to call me. Hehe, are you really thinking of wooing me?"

Xiao Lin felt somewhat helpless because he had just refused Wang Yuelan's invitation earlier. There was no other choice for him, so all he could do was bite the bullet and say, "Are you free? It's such a coincidence that we met here. Why don't we go out for a meal? I'll treat you!"

Wang Yuelan was silent for more than a minute, as if to consider his proposal, but Xiao Lin seemed to hear her faint discussions with another person. It was only then that Wang Yuelan's voice was heard. "Sure, I just left the academy, but I'm not too far away. We'll just go to a nearby restaurant."

After arranging the location, Xiao Lin walked there and called Song Junlang. The ringing tone was still that of a switched-off cell phone, prompting him to roll his eyes. Song Junlang said that he had important stuff to do on Earth, but could he actually be looking at scantily-clad girls on Hawaii's beaches at that moment?

Xiao Lin had no choice but to call Mao Tianying, and it had to be said that Xiao Lin gained a bit of a reputation by relying on Song Junlang. Mao Tianying—who was originally the person in charge of the Earth Division—might not have that high a status in Dawn Academy, but he could not possibly be that friendly with a freshman who has just enrolled, to the point where he would willingly exchange numbers with Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin knew very well why Mao Tianying was so courteous to him. A small part of the reason was because of his position as monitor, but it was mostly out of courtesy to Song Junlang.

Seeking Mao Tianying's help was a last-minute decision. Xiao Lin remembered Song Junlang telling him that many traces have been left on Earth during several centuries of colonial academy development. To put it more bluntly, academy people like them would have to take the blame for many mysterious events.

Gu Chengyun was Gu Xiaoyue's younger sister, and Gu Xiaoyue was a very special student at the academy—she could easily draw attention to herself, whether it terms of her mysterious mixed-race bloodline or her extremely high talent for magic.

Chapter 411 - Confrontation

Chapter 411: Confrontation

Xiao Lin guessed that Gu Xiaoyue's mystery would also cause unnecessary trouble to her sister. After the call to Mao Tianying was connected, the latter spoke in a rather polite manner with Xiao Lin. When he learned that Xiao Lin was only asking about someone, he patted his chest and said that there would not be a problem.

Anyone who returned to Earth from the academy would be registered to facilitate real-time tracking by the people in the Earth Division. That was also their main task. Mao Tianying was not

troubled at all, but he was clearly stunned when he heard Wang Yuelan's name, after which he had a sudden realization and uttered, "Oh."

Xiao Lin's spirit was up and he knew that he had asked the right person. "Do you know Wang Yuelan?"

"She's in the admissions department. Seems like her rank isn't that low too." There was a bit of emotion in Mao Tianying's tone and he was more or less remorseful about his own status.

Xiao Lin sighed slightly. It came as a bit of a surprise that Wang Yuelan was also a member of the Dawn Academy and belonged to the admissions department. It seemed that at least she was not a bad person, but after only a few seconds, Xiao Lin widened his eyes in response and became nervous once more.

There were many departments for Dawn Academy's students, but apart from being familiar with the logistics department, Xiao Lin did not actually have much contact with other departments. However, he had heard of the admissions department before as it was specifically responsible for the admission of freshmen. Truth be told, it was all thanks to them that Xiao Lin was able to be in Dawn Academy.

If Wang Yuelan belonged to that department, what was her reason for being there? Why was she looking for Gu Chengyun? The answer was plainly obvious: the admissions department wanted to recruit Gu Chengyun into Dawn Academy!

Xiao Lin's first reaction was to prevent that from happening. The lively and cheerful girl was already ill-fated, as she had been orphaned since she was young, was half paralyzed, and had a sister with only two years of life remaining. If there was nothing to change Gu Xiaoyue's situation, she would be alone in another two years.

Having her enter Dawn Academy, go through the unpredictable monthly exams, and having to go to the New World after graduation, Xiao Lin felt that such a life was unsuited for Gu Chengyun.

On the other side of the phone, Mao Tianying was still chattering, "This admissions department is a bit strange this time too. Logically speaking, they've just recruited new students this year and it's still very early for the next enrollment. Even if they're here to inspect the new students, it's still far too early."

"Inspecting freshmen?" Xiao Lin was a little confused, as he did not really understand the enrollment procedures.

"Hehe, of course. Every freshman who enrolls is carefully selected. There are more than one billion people across the country. Can anyone guarantee that a certain batch is suitable if they're selected at random?"

Xiao Lin recalled in detail that he had accidentally received the mysterious admission letter in the middle of the night. After tearing it open, he was immediately taken to Dawn Academy in a miraculous manner. Everything that had happened in between was completely unknown to him.

"I don't remember anyone approaching me before my enrollment in the academy," Xiao Lin recounted what happened to him.

“That’s normal. People in the admissions department won’t willingly reveal their identities. Before the enrollment, you’d think that a stranger was simply striking a conversation with you, so if you fail to be recruited, no one will remember it too clearly.”

Xiao Lin was also unsure if he had ever encountered such a strange stranger. As Mao Tianying said, unless he knew the inside story in advance and was aware of it, he certainly would not give it a second thought.

“Under normal circumstances however, not everyone will be investigated. As long as the other party is determined to be a gifted student, contact will be initiated for the purpose of further inspection. You’d have to ask the admissions department for their inspection criteria.”

“What level is Wang Yuelan in the admissions department? Department head? Year leader? Monitor?”

“The department head’s assistant. She had just been promoted last year.”

“Assistant?”

“Something like a secretary. It’s not a public post. It’s an arbitrary arrangement by the department head.”

“Secretary...” Xiao Lin’s expression became a little weird. He had seen the admission department’s head before and he could not help but make a couple of associations.

“Hehe, I don’t know what’s her relationship with the head of the admissions department, but she’s quite good, this woman. As far as I know, she was the one who personally discovered at least half the talented students in the past two batches of freshmen. There are also rumors that she’s already slated to be the next admission department’s head, and that being an assistant is nothing more than to facilitate the transition.”

After learning some basic information, Xiao Lin was also slightly surprised at Wang Yuelan’s ability. He conveyed his thanks to Mao Tianying and wondered how to confront Wang Yuelan.

The restaurant near the entrance of the fine arts academy was fairly high-end, and when Xiao Lin arrived, he discovered that Wang Yuelan was already waiting there. It further affirmed his judgment that Wang Yuelan never even left the vicinity at all.

“Sorry I’m late.”

“It’s fine, I just came here anyway.”

“There aren’t any better restaurants near the academy, so I hope you’re okay with it.”

“Hehe, how thoughtful. It’s not like I’m a spoiled daughter.”

...

After the pleasantries, Xiao Lin asked for a private room and smiled as she handed the menu to Wang Yuelan. “Ladies first.” He then continued to think about how best to bring up that matter.

Wang Yuelan did not hesitate and ordered a few dishes after taking the menu over. She then handed it back to Xiao Lin, who glanced around at random and discovered that she had ordered some very cheap dishes. Xiao Lin’s family background was not that well off before, and Wang Yuelan also understood that. Although Xiao Lin no longer cared about money, he still found her gesture to be quite considerate.

However, Xiao Lin could not help but feel suspicious. If Wang Yuelan was the assistant of the admission department’s head, then according to what Mao Tianying said, many of the talented students in Xiao Lin’s batch were likely recruited by that woman as well. If that were the case, it was impossible that Wang Yuelan did not know who he was.

If she had knowledge of all that, did it mean that she was just acting stupid?

Xiao Lin was puzzled, but he did not want to waste any more time. After all, Gu Xiaoyue and her sister were still waiting for him at the fine arts academy. As a result, he seized the moment while they were waiting for food and got straight to the point by asking in a half-joking tone that was normally used among friends, “Is the work at the admissions department tiring? When did you guys start your holidays?”

“It’s okay, we don’t have many holidays, actu—” Wang Yuelan replied without thinking, but then looked up at him all of a sudden. Her kind gaze then sharpened in an instant.

Xiao Lin did not shirk away from the eye contact and even sensed a vague trace of murder in her eyes. The air in the private room seemed to freeze instantly, but after a few minutes, Wang Yuelan’s eyes eased and she smiled faintly. “So, you’re also from the academy, Brother Xiao Lin?”

“Are you going to kill me if I say no?” Xiao Lin teased.

The secret of Dawn Academy must never be revealed to ordinary people. It was a cardinal rule that had been emphasized repeatedly before they departed for Earth.

Chapter 412 - The Admissions Department

Chapter 412: The Admissions Department

The Earth Division was tasked with dealing with ordinary people who were told about the academy’s existence. There were many ways to handle it, but none of the methods were pleasant, whether it was erasing memories or a humane annihilation.

Wang Yuelan was not an idiot. She could already guess it by Xiao Lin’s remark. Since both sides were from the academy, then it was much easier to talk openly.

Of course, there was still a need to confirm everything. For students who went out of the academy, their universal card was undoubtedly the best proof available. It was a special kind of card that was definitely not something any Norman or Earthling could imitate easily.

The two exchanged their cards and glanced at it, further affirming their identities.

The atmosphere in the room suddenly eased considerably. Since Xiao Lin had directly revealed her role in the admissions department, Wang Yuelan no longer hid anything, but she did not disclose everything either. She said, “Yes, I enrolled two years ago, and I’m doing miscellaneous work in the admissions department. What about you? Which class are you from?”

Xiao Lin rolled his eyes secretly. She said that she was doing miscellaneous work even though she was next in line to be the department head, which was a clear sign of her wariness. In any case, Xiao Lin had no time to waste and he has nothing to hide either, since he believed that she could easily get his details if she really did dig deeper. As a result, he answered honestly, “I’m the current batch of freshmen, now in Class Seven.”

“Huh? It really is you!”

Wang Yuelan was also very surprised. “I heard that there was a very influential person named Xiao Lin in this batch, but I just thought he shared the same name as you, so I never actually associated that Xiao Lin with you.”

“I heard that the past two batches of students were recruited by you, Senior Sister, so you can’t possibly know nothing about it.” Xiao Lin also had some doubts, but he smoothly changed his way of addressing her to Senior Sister in order to dispel Wang Yuelan’s wariness.

Wang Yuelan did not ask how Xiao Lin knew about that, but she frowned and muttered, “You’re right. These two batches, especially your batch, were picked by me, but I’m pretty sure I didn’t see your name when I sent the admission letters. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have forgotten you. That’s why I never thought it was you when I heard your name later on.”

Xiao Lin smiled and said, “You probably forgot, Senior Sister, or else I wouldn’t have been able to enter Dawn Academy without my admission notice.”

“I have a good memory! And the course I’m currently taking is on spell scrolls, which requires a high level of memory. Plus, it’s you of all people! I couldn’t have forgotten if I saw your name!” Wang Yuelan was still unconvinced.

However, Xiao Lin had no intention of furthering that irrelevant question. He shifted the subject away and said, “Are you here for Gu Chengyun?”

“So you do know her.” Wang Yuelan was not surprised, and judging from her expression, she had roughly guessed the reason Xiao Lin wanted to look for her.

“Do you want Gu Chengyun to go to the academy?”

“Yes.”

Xiao Lin frowned.

Wang Yuelan added, “Don’t get me wrong, it’s not that I want her to enroll. I don’t have such authority. It’s the higher-ups that decide who enters the academy.”

“Higher-ups? That admissions guy?”

Wang Yuelan was a little speechless and rolled her eyes. “What do you mean ‘that admissions guy’? He’s the head of the department, you know. And yes, it is him, and I was given a last-minute task to investigate this Gu Chengyun girl on this trip. It’s the same phone call I answered when I met you for coffee that day.”

Xiao Lin did not interact much with the admission department’s head. He remembered the guy from the opening ceremony, and what stood out was his gleaming face and neat dress sense. However, it was clear that the admissions department was not a low-ranking department, since it was related to the quality of freshmen and was very much held in high-esteem.

“Is it possible not to admit Gu Chengyun to the academy?”

Wang Yuelan was doubly stunned. “Why?”

Xiao Lin opened his hands. “Well, obviously, she is half-paralyzed. Do you think she’s suitable for Dawn Academy?”

Wang Yuelan looked serious. “To tell you the truth, Xiao Lin, I don’t know why the higher-ups want me to investigate her, but if there’s a chance, I think it’s best to enroll her in the academy. It’s difficult to treat her paralysis on Earth, but it’s different in Dawn Academy. There are a large number of healers who can do that.”

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly. He remembered that Gu Xiaoyue said something similar, and the reason why she worked so hard at Dawn Academy was actually to heal her sister. If she knew that Gu Chengyun would also be brought into Dawn Academy, it would be hard to imagine how angry she would be.

The dishes were brought up by the waiter one after another, and Xiao Lin stopped the discussion at just the right time. In fact, it was not a problem for outsiders to hear bits of their conversation, since the most they would think was that the discussion centered around ordinary universities. Even lunatics would find it difficult to associate that with colonizing alien worlds.

Xiao Lin did not have any appetite and tried to make Wang Yuelan give up on that plan. At the very least, she ought to state that Gu Chengyun had no enrollment value in the inspection report, since it was hard to imagine what a half-paralyzed person could do after entering the academy.

Wang Yuelan was also put in a tight spot. It was her boss who specifically tasked her with that, which meant that he had some form of information at least. Concealing it on without careful consideration would produce undesirable effects for her too.

They could not come to a suitable agreement until the meal was over. Wang Yuelan said that the most she could do was clarify the situation when she went back, since she had no idea why there was a need to recruit new students again after the enrollment period had already passed.

Xiao Lin expressed his gratitude for that, but he did not expect the admissions department to be accommodating. He could only put his hopes on Song Junlang, since the latter had friends in high places and could possibly influence the decision of the admissions department.

After having a quick meal, Xiao Lin left and returned to the fine arts academy. He originally wanted to invite Wang Yuelan to go with him, but she politely refused. Wang Yuelan laughed and said that she had to go back to report on her mission.

Both Gu sisters had just finished dinner some time ago in the fine arts academy and were still waiting for Xiao Lin to return. However, Xiao Lin did not tell Gu Chengyun the truth, but simply smiled and told her that it was a misunderstanding. Gu Chengyun believed that, then told Gu Xiaoyue smugly that she did not need to go home anymore.

Gu Xiaoyue rolled her eyes at Xiao Lin. After sending Gu Chengyun back to the studio, Gu Xiaoyue continued to walk with Xiao Lin on campus. Gu Xiaoyue was not as easily fooled as her sister, and Xiao Lin had no intention of hiding anything from her either. Once there was no one around, He told Gu Xiaoyue the truth.

“Let Chengyun go to Dawn Academy too? No! Absolutely not!” Gu Xiaoyue’s voice suddenly increased several times, and her delicate face was full of anger.

“How can the academy do this! I’m already trapped in all this! Why must they do the same to my sister!

“I will never agree to this!

“If it’s just to treat Chengyun’s legs, I can do it myself!”

Chapter 413 - Strange Rain

Chapter 413: Strange Rain

Xiao Lin’s prediction was correct. Gu Xiaoyue found it difficult to accept it if her sister entered Dawn Academy. He smiled bitterly and waved his hand, “It’s useless if you get angry at me. I didn’t decide this matter.”

After a pause, Xiao Lin continued, “Don’t worry, I’ll clarify this with Department Head Song. This whole thing is a bit weird. Logically speaking, it isn’t the time for enrollment, so there might be some leeway to go around this.”

Gu Xiaoyue calmed down a bit and said a soft thank you, which made Xiao Lin feel at ease. He knew that Gu Xiaoyue was not someone who thanked others easily, especially not when she was averse to relying on others.

“By the way, is there anything special about your sister?” Xiao Lin asked casually again. Since the admissions department sent someone to inspect Gu Chengyun, it meant that Gu Chengyun had something which attracted people’s attention.

Gu Xiaoyue found it a little strange but she still shook her head.

Xiao Lin looked at her hesitant answer and surmised that she probably did not want to tell the truth, which was understandable. If Song Junlang's guess is correct and Gu Xiaoyue was half-elf, then her sister must surely be the same too. Gu Xiaoyue had already shown extraordinary talent in the academy, and Gu Chengyun might not be that far behind.

Three days have passed since the holiday and Xiao Lin did not want to delay things until the end. He called Song Junlang again, but the phone was still turned off. It was quite irritating for Xiao Lin and he was at wit's end. If Department Head Song did not come forward, it was very difficult for him to solve everything by himself.

He tried contacting Wang Yuelan again, but she said that she had already left the city and returned to give her report. She further said that she would help Xiao Lin inquire, but she made a point to tell Xiao Lin not to put his hopes too high.

Gu Xiaoyue was obviously brooding, but fortunately she always looked indifferent. Due to that, Gu Chengyun did not notice anything abnormal in her expression.

Although Gu Chengyun was in her second year, she did not enjoy herself that much. Gu Xiaoyue had little time in the past, so at Xiao Lin's suggestion, Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue accompanied Gu Chengyun around the city for the next two days. They walked around and visited zoos, botanical gardens, as well as parks.

Xiao Lin was not that interested in such pastimes, but Gu Chengyun was thrilled. The innocent smile on her face can easily spread happiness to everyone around her, and even Gu Xiaoyue's face was beginning to show signs of a shallow smile.

It was a pity that the good times did not last long. On the fifth day of the holiday, there was a continuous light drizzle. Gu Chengyun pouted and complained repeatedly, because the weather forecast stated that the weather would be very good for the coming week. However, the light drizzle went on for an entire day, and even seemed to grow stronger instead of stopping.

Xiao Lin first found a hotel to live in temporarily, but was bored and could only turn on the TV in the hotel and constantly change channels. He then discovered that several television stations were talking about the same thing. The rain in recent days was not in a small area, and it was said that the entire southern part of China is covered by continuous rain. However, none of the weather stations forecasted rain, and experts from all over were talking about it.

Those experts soon discovered that the rain was not limited to that country. All the cities on the Pacific coast were experiencing that strange heavy rain. The area of rain was like a disc that decreased progressively in terms of severity the farther a place was from the center. In other words, the fringe areas would have smaller rain. There was already a heavy downpour in several of the Pacific's island countries. The scenes on television looked terrifying, and the water accumulated in many of those country's places could even sweep an entire person away. Many people could only use boats as a means of travel.

Experts have analyzed and come up with many reasons, but Xiao Lin had the nagging feeling that it was all nonsense. Finally, someone calculated the intensity of the rain and discovered that the strongest, or the core of the disc, was Hawaii.

Xiao Lin, who was originally just watching the expert opinions to pass the time, jumped out of bed after lying around for half a day. There was a look of surprise and uncertainty on his face, and he once again thought of Song Junlang's visit to Hawaii. Although he did not say what he was going to do, Xiao Lin originally thought that he was just going to go on vacation.

Although the rain was a bit strange and the experts said that they had never seen such a thing for over a hundred years, it was still just ordinary rain after all. If it were anyone else, Xiao Lin would probably not associate the rain with them, but Xiao Lin immediately thought of Song Junlang, as the man was fond of making all sorts of hybrid creatures.

What did Song Junlang do in Hawaii?

Since he could not get through to Song Junlang on the phone, Xiao Lin thought of going straight to Hawaii to check things out. Unfortunately, it would take a long time to apply for a visa and go through the necessary procedures if he went there by himself. A few days of vacation would definitely not be enough, so he called Mao Tianying again and explained the situation, as it should not be a problem for the Earth Division.

However, Mao Tianying refused and warned him in a very low voice, "Something has probably happened in Hawaii. I advise you to stay away from there. Several academies are sending people over to investigate right now."

"What happened?"

"I don't know, and the student union has already issued an urgent notice. The freshmen's holidays are now cancelled. I actually wanted to inform you that your group will be required to rush to the meeting point as soon as possible. I'll send a vehicle to pick you up!"

Mao Tianying's words were very vague and Xiao Lin did not know if he was trying to hide something or whether he knew nothing at all. In any case, such vague answers would only make Xiao Lin more restless, and the feeling of forgetting something continued to bother him in his mind.

Hawaii was quite far away, and whatever it was that happened there, Xiao Lin was still far beyond the affected area. Nevertheless, Xiao Lin was aware of the equilibrium in Earth's space, and it was inevitable that those worries would arise in his heart. Could it be that the current rain was also a sign that the balance had been broken?

He remembered Song Junlang saying that if the balance of the earth continued to be destroyed, it would become cosmic dust sooner or later. As his homeland, he remembered that his parents would live on that planet, and for them to continue living, Xiao Lin absolutely did not want such a thing to happen.

Gu Xiaoyue soon came looking for him too. It seemed that she had received the urgent notice Mao Tianying mentioned. The notice did not state any reason, but it directly compelled the students who were still on the earth to return to the academy as soon as possible. Even Gu Xiaoyue felt that something was wrong after getting the inexplicably hasty order. She had a faint feeling that it might be related to the rain she was looking at, which by then had already covered half of the world.

Chapter 414 - Black Seawater

Chapter 414: Black Seawater

Gu Xiaoyue went there alone. She did not care about the origin of the rain, or what happened in Hawaii, but what saddened her slightly was the fact that she could not keep Gu Chengyun company. In addition, she was also worried that Gu Chengyun might be recruited into the academy.

Xiao Lin felt a headache coming on too. He came back to Earth in the hopes of relaxing and having a vacation, but the trouble he encountered in the past two days seemed to be more than what he faced in Dawn Academy.

When Gu Xiaoyue mentioned his sister, Xiao Lin had a sudden realization. He finally discovered where the strange uneasiness in his subconscious originated from, and he rushed out without a second thought. He grabbed Gu Xiaoyue's hand without so much as a word and ran all the way towards the fine arts academy.

Gu Xiaoyue was stunned for a while, and forcefully jerked her hand free. Xiao Lin laughed dryly. Taking advantage of Gu Xiaoyue's confused expression, he wisely shifted the topic away and said with a serious face, "I'm going to look for Chengyun. There's something I'm very concerned about."

Xiao Lin then took Gu Xiaoyue's hand and started running wildly again. He probably could not give any reasonable excuse as to why he had to hold hands while running. Gu Xiaoyue struggled a little at the beginning, but fortunately, she did not object after seeing the seriousness between Xiao Lin's eyebrows.

After arriving at the fine arts academy, the number of students on the roadside gradually increased. It was inevitable that those who were single stared intently at the two of them holding hands. In any case, Gu Xiaoyue was more sensitive, and she quietly retracted her hand. Xiao Lin pursed his lips. Feeling somewhat regretful and slightly irritated, Xiao Lin cast an even fiercer look at the people around him, causing everyone to consciously avoid them...

Gu Chengyun had just finished class, but because it was not the weekend, there were many more students in the painting studio. Most of them were girls. Many were chatting with each other, and Xiao Lin observed quietly for some time from outside. There were many people around Gu Chengyun and she was obviously quite popular in the academy. She and her sister were polar opposites, and it stood to reason that such a lively, optimistic, and cheerful girl was worthy of others to know.

"Sister! Xiao Lin!" Gu Chengyun caught a glimpse of the two people outside the classroom and beckoned them gleefully. Last time, he cunningly omitted calling Xiao Lin 'brother' and explained her reason with conviction: if she addressed them as Brother Xiao Lin, and Sister Gu Xiaoyue, then the relationship between the two of them would arouse suspicion from others. Needless to say, her explanation left Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue speechless for quite some time.

Xiao Lin took the initiative to push her wheelchair and stopped at the corner of the corridor where there were few people. He smiled and asked, "Chengyun, where's that unfinished painting? Have you completed it after that?"

Gu Xiaoyue's lips squirmed, but she just sighed silently even though she looked like she wanted to say something. Gu Chengyun tilted her head in confusion and said, "It's done, since my habit is to finish a painting that I started. It's just..."

"Can you show me that painting?" Xiao Lin did not notice Gu Chengyun's hesitation.

"I have many other paintings. You can see the others if you like, but forget about that one."

"Why?"

"That painting is a bit weird. I put it away after it was done." Gu Chengyun felt a little embarrassed.

Xiao Lin patiently persuaded. Gu Chengyun was very easy to talk to, and she also acknowledged Xiao Lin as her brother-in-law. After some persuasion, Gu Chengyun reluctantly agreed. Once the painting was brought out, Xiao Lin hurriedly opened it in the corridor.

Gu Chengyun drew a picture of the Hawaiian landscape. Most of the painting remained the same as before, but Xiao Lin noticed that at the very edge of the painting—that is, the area which used to be black—had since been filled with jet-black paint.

Gu Xiaoyue also leaned her head and looked at it carefully. She also noticed that the darkness was incompatible with the surrounding blue waters and had a serious effect on the beauty of the entire painting. Anyone with a discerning eye could see it, so it was impossible for Gu Chengyun to be unaware of it. Oddly enough, she still insisted on painting even though she could see the discordance, so it was unsurprising that she refused to take out the painting earlier.

"I draw pictures by imagination. You know that, Big Sis. I'm not the one who decides what I want to paint."

"What is this black area?"

"Seawater."

"Seawater? Black seawater!" Gu Xiaoyue had a look of suspicion.

Xiao Lin was still observing the painting. This area was indeed painted with black paint, but one closer inspection, one would notice that it was not simply a patch of jet-black paint. Within it, a slightly lighter layer can be vaguely distinguished. The layers were gray and black, and the two colors were alternated together. A professional painter might not find it that easy to distinguish.

Xiao Lin pointed to this area and asked, "What's this here?"

Gu Chengyun closed her eyes and tried to remember her memory, but soon there was a trace of uneasiness between her eyebrows. She whispered, "I don't know, all I remember is that it's terrible. There seems to be something terrible hidden in the black water, but I really can't remember what it was, and I don't understand why I imagined that kind of picture, so I didn't even dare to continue painting before Xiao Lin came."

“Okay, okay, don’t worry!” Gu Xiaoyue took her sister’s shoulders lovingly. She comforted her and softly chastised, “It’s just a nightmare. It’s fine, next time if there’s ever a painting that you don’t want to draw again, just simply forget it, do you understand!”

Gu Xiaoyue glared at Xiao Lin again. Xiao Lin could not ask any more. Gu Chengyun’s mood fluctuated slightly. Gu Xiaoyue was still worried and wanted to stay there, so she hurried Xiao Lin back to the hotel. Before leaving however, she still asked Xiao Lin to return the painting.

Wang Yuelan said that Gu Chengyun was the person whom the head of admissions wanted to inspect, and there had to be something extraordinary about a person who was going to be inspected. As Mao Tianying said to him, most talented students would be visited by the admissions department unannounced, and it could even be said that talented students were the core goal of each enrollment.

If Gu Chengyun was also a talented person, could her talent be the ability to prophesy?

Xiao Lin remembered that she gave her a painting when he first met her. It was a painting depicting hail in New York. When he went to America a few days later, he saw the same familiar scene. Of course, he thought of it as a coincidence at the time and paid little attention to it, but the Hawaii incident reminded him that twice or thrice was no longer a coincidence.

Gu Xiaoyue might have realized it, or perhaps she did know about it but deliberately concealed it. Then, the head of admissions found out about it from somewhere and therefore sent his assistant Wang Yuelan to investigate.

That was the greatest possibility that Xiao Lin could think of right then.

Chapter 415 - The Legend of Poseidon

Chapter 415: The Legend of Poseidon

In the hotel, Xiao Lin opened up Gu Chengyun’s drawing and studied it, but it was still hard to determine what the pitch black sea was hiding just from that drawing.

“Oh...”

A drawn out sigh was suddenly heard behind him, and Xiao Lin jumped in fright, deftly turning around and adopting a defensive stance. He saw Silverlight, who had been missing for many days, floating in the air, causing him to pause. His immediate response was to check if the door was locked; if someone walked in at that moment, he would probably appear on the news headlines the next day.

Silverlight had never come out during the time Xiao Lin had been on Earth, and Xiao Lin had no way to call for her. The two of them were only working together, so Silverlight decided herself when she wanted to come out.

“I told you the last time, stop coming out so suddenly. You’ll scare me to death!” Xiao Lin cursed.

The white-robed woman ignored his cursing, going straight to the table to look at the drawing. Her beautiful silver eyes looked on quietly with a complicated expression.

Xiao Lin asked curiously, “You know Hawaii?”

“Ha-wa-ii?”

Xiao Lin was surprised this time, because Silverlight used Mandarin to say the words.

Before that, they had always conversed in Ancient Normese. Even if Xiao Lin’s Ancient Normese was quite decent nowadays, he was still unable to understand some of the deeper meanings.

“Learning a language is nothing hard for me,” Silverlight rolled her eyes, saying calmly. “I’d been listening to you talk with others these two days. Remembering the vocabulary makes things very easy to understand. Is it really that hard?”

Listening to her fluent Mandarin, Xiao Lin was speechless, but it did make things a lot easier.

Silverlight obviously did not know what Hawaii was, but she pointed at the blurry gray area in the dark sea with a serious expression. “If I’m not mistaken, this is a mark of a Guardian, but I can’t be sure with just this drawing.”

“A Guardian?”

Silverlight breathed in a deep breath, looking away from the drawing as she closed her eyes reminiscing. “I don’t know how much is left of Atlantis on this world. How much do you know about Atlantis’s origins?”

Xiao Lin shook his head.

Silverlight continued, “From what I had seen before in the archives, the founding king of Atlantis was the sea god of the time: Poseidon. At the time, there were many temples worshipping Poseidon on the mainlands, and Atlantis’s strength came from the sea god’s power to some degree, but its final destruction was also...”

She shook her head and stopped at that point. Xiao Lin had tried to research Atlantis before, but all that was left on Earth were only legends.

Xiao Lin half-jokingly said, “I heard that there was a parentless girl on a small island who was taken as a bride by Poseidon, giving birth to five sets of twins. Poseidon then divided the island into ten parts, giving each child one to rule over, and the eldest child was to be the highest ruler. Since the eldest was called Atlas, the country was named Atlantis. Is that right?”

“Correct, and incorrect.” Silverlight did not react to Xiao Lin’s joking as she continued, “What you need to know is that Atlantis has a very close relationship with Poseidon. Poseidon would never reveal himself as the sea god, but back then, there were guards that belonged to Poseidon in the sea, which we called the God’s Guardians.”

Silverlight pointed to the grayed out land, saying, “I’m still not very sure. If this drawing is real, I wish to see it.”

“Can you see what’s happening outside while you’re in the ring?”

“Basically.”

“You were spying then.” The corner of Xiao Lin’s lips twitched. If that was the case, Silverlight definitely understood Gu Chengyu’s situation, which was why she wanted to see the place the drawing depicted.

“Don’t worry, I cut off my senses whenever it’s inconvenient for you.”

“Wait wait wait, what do you mean when it’s inconvenient. Do you spy on me every day?!”

Silverlight remained expressionless. “I think you’d better get me to the place quickly. If we don’t make it in time, the world might actually revisit the tragedy of my old homeland!”

Xiao Lin immediately shut up. His eyes were wide as he said in disbelief, “Hold on, revisit? Atlantis’s tragedy? Are you saying the Earth will drown?!”

Silverlight’s cold voice sounded even more terrifying, “Do you think Poseidon was only the god of the sea for show? He controlled the world’s seas and typhoons. Poseidon has a taste for invasion and an extreme sense of ambition. The torrential rain is already an act of mercy; if we don’t do anything and allow him to regain his strength, I won’t be able to stop anything he plans on doing in the future.”

“Does Poseidon really exist? Isn’t that just a legend?” Xiao Lin was uncertain, but Silverlight did not look like she was joking, nor did that woman whose homeland had been drowned have a reason to lie. No matter what, Earth was her homeland as well.

“I’m only a myth on Planet Norma as well; myths and legends are usually born from truth. I don’t know how many legends Earth has right now, but I can tell you frankly, the sea god Poseidon definitely existed in history!”

“So you’re saying that Poseidon created Atlantis and also destroyed it. What about later? Where did Poseidon go? I don’t know about ancient history, but I know that there hasn’t been anyone like that in recent history.” Xiao Lin’s history had been quite good when he was in university. Poseidon definitely did not exist in Chinese or global history.

Silverlight shook her head. “I left for Planet Norma, but I know that a few people wanted to seal Poseidon before I left. I don’t know the results, but since the world is still peaceful, then they probably succeeded.

Xiao Lin paced around, speculating, “Which means that for some reason, the seal back then has been loosened, which is why this torrential rain has happened. Poseidon actually wants to submerge the world into the sea and rule over it?”

Silverlight pursed her lips. “I’m only speculating, so we need to get to the scene to see for sure!”

“Let me report it to the higher-ups from the academy first. No matter what, things will be much easier if they show up.” Xiao Lin muttered to himself.

“We won’t make it in time.”

Chapter 416 - Arriving in Hawaii

Chapter 416: Arriving in Hawaii

Silverlight’s expression was still calm as usual. “We wouldn’t make it, even if it’s just speculation; if the gray marks really belong to a Guardian, then Poseidon will be here soon. Usually, the Guardians follow Poseidon.”

“Speaking of that, how powerful is Poseidon? Oh, I remember you’ve said before that Atlantis was a civilization that put a lot of emphasis on pursuing the limits of your bodies.”

“Not mentioning the standards of the civilization back then, based on Planet Norma’s standards, Poseidon’s power should be around Legend rank.”

Xiao Lin was shocked again, bitterly smiling as he said, “Then why are you hurrying me there; won’t I just be like a lamb walking into a lion’s den?”

“I’ve said what I needed to say. It’s your decision to make.” Silverlight did not say anything after that. She turned her body to light and went back into the ring.

Only Xiao Lin was left in the room, looking uncertain at the drawing on the table. After a long time, he took out his phone and entered Mao Tianying’s number.

“Department Head Mao, can you contact Department Head Song?”

“Haha, don’t call me a department head, my rank is still far away from that. Just call me by my name. If you’re looking for Song Junlang, that guy probably won’t be back for at least half a month. It’s better if you head back to the academy first. I’ll just let him know when he gets back.”

“It won’t be in time if we wait. I need to go to Hawaii. Please arrange it for me no matter what.”

“What’s so urgent?”

Xiao Lin fell quiet, instead asking, “The people that the academy sent to Hawaii, what’s their situation?”

Mao Tianying muttered, “Who knows. Those people love to jump to conclusions, but I don’t think it’s anything. Based on old cases, it’s probably some idiot ignoring academy rules, showing off on Earth. We just don’t know which academy they’re from yet. You probably heard about the tsunami in Indonesia all those years ago. There are always bad eggs like them.”

Xiao Lin could not help but feel a sense of urgency. The academies did not seem to feel any danger, but felt that was natural instead. If not for Silverlight being an Atlantean, Xiao Lin would not have tied the rain to Atlantis, or even the mythical Poseidon.

“I need to go to Hawaii! I’ll owe you a favor!”

“You at least need to tell me why,” Mao Tianying smiled as he asked.

“You won’t believe me if I did.”

“Go ahead.”

“Fine, Earth is about to be destroyed, and I need to save it.”

There were a few seconds of silence before a chorus of laughter could be heard. Mao Tianying went out of control laughing, taking awhile to compose himself before saying, “I can’t believe your imagination is so rich. Fine, it’s not the time to joke right now...”

“I knew you wouldn’t believe me.” Xiao Lin sighed.

“How could I believe something like that. Fine, keep using your imagination. Who wants to destroy the world?”

“Poseidon.”

“Hahaha...” Another surge of laughter could be heard. Mao Tianying laughed until he started coughing. “Are you even going to bring Atlantis into this?”

Xiao Lin was speechless. “Your guess is right. I was just about to say that.”

“...”

Finally Xiao Lin hung up the call. He could not possibly persuade Mao Tianying to believe his words, nor could he get Silverlight to appear and explain things. Even if he did, it was very possible Silverlight would be brought back by Dawn Academy for experimentation.

Thinking about it, Xiao Lin ended up looking for Gu Xiaoyue, explaining the circumstances simply. He had been worried that she would think he was crazy, but the only response he got was Gu Xiaoyue’s cold, “Oh.”

Xiao Lin was once again speechless, unsure if Gu Xiaoyue was completely unconcerned about it or if the girl was a little unhinged. However, no matter what, what caused Xiao Lin to tear up was that Gu Xiaoyue seemed to really believe what he was saying.

“I wish to go to Hawaii as well!” Gu Xiaoyue said calmly. “It’s not to save the world, nor is it for some Poseidon. I just want to know what Chengyun was drawing. I don’t want that drawing to become a shadow in her heart!”

“The academy wants us to return immediately, and Mao Tianying doesn’t want to help. It’s probably too late to get visas done now.”

“Let me arrange that. This isn’t something money can’t handle.”

Gu Xiaoyue's words were simple yet imperious. She left immediately after she finished to get everything done. Xiao Lin was stunned before remembering that Gu Xiaoyue had mentioned that she came from a rich family. It seemed like she was not just an ordinary rich person.

Xiao Lin could not help with the matter, and could only wait nervously. It took until noon the next day before Gu Xiaoyue appeared in front of him, tired. "I've already gotten the plane ready. Let's go."

Gu Xiaoyue's efficiency shocked Xiao Lin. He wondered how much money she had spent. The two of them got on a taxi and headed straight to the airport. There was already a small passenger plane waiting for them. It was fortunate that the rain was not that heavy there, neither were there any violent winds or thunderstorms, so it did not affect the flight.

However, their destination was not Hawaii. The airline had rejected the request to fly to Hawaii, so they could only head to Hong Kong before taking another flight to Guam. After that, they would charter a private plane to finally head to Hawaii.

The journey was very turbulent. Gu Xiaoyue had said that she used some connections she had made before, but she had definitely spent a lot. She even managed to prepare fake visas. Of course, the woman was obviously not someone who cared about money.

It took a day before they arrived in Hawaii. The rain was much heavier than back in their country. It was not an exaggeration to call it a downpour. The private plane immediately left after sending them there. The only reason the pilot even agreed was because Gu Xiaoyue offered a price that was hard to resist. As for how they would go back, they did not think about it yet.

It was the first time Xiao Lin was in Hawaii, but Hawaii was definitely not a tourist attraction at that moment. Heavy rain fell from the pitch-black sky, and the tourists had long since disappeared. The two of them walked to the beach, and it was filled with trash and daily items discarded by tourists as they were fleeing. It was obvious they had left in great panic.

Xiao Lin looked around, not seeing anything out of the ordinary. He finally stopped on the beach, looking at the dark sky. Xiao Lin then scooped up some of the sea water, noticing that it was still crystal blue, yet what was depicted in the drawing was pitch-black.

Elite Mages' Academy

Chapter 417: Conjecture on The Island

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue had their umbrellas with them, but the rain next to the sea was way too heavy, so they were practically useless. Xiao Lin glanced at Gu Xiaoyue, and noticed that her entire body was soaked. He immediately took off his raincoat and gave it to her, and feeling very pleased with himself, said, "Thankfully I came prepared..."

Gu Xiaoyue did not accept it, immediately pointing toward somewhere nearby. "There's someone there!"

Looking toward where she was pointing, he noticed a few human-like silhouettes swimming quickly through the waves in the horizon, closing in on the beach.

The waves were extremely turbulent, but those humanoids did not sit on any boats. Xiao Lin immediately suspected that they were from another academy.

“Let’s avoid them for now.”

They had sneaked over themselves, and did not want to get caught. Being sent back to Dawn Academy would probably result in them being punished, so the two of them temporarily left the beach, finding a wooden house for cover.

The inside of the house was very messy, it was obvious that the original owner had left in a panic. There were even fruits that had been cut but not eaten on the table. Xiao Lin did not mind it as he grabbed the fruits, eating them as he tried to summon Silverlight from his spatial ring.

This time Silverlight actually answered his summon, appearing in front of him. Xiao Lin had already told Gu Xiaoyue about Silverlight on the way there, so Gu Xiaoyue did not show that much surprise, only nodding subtly as a greeting.

Silverlight did not usually interact with others, but after glancing at Gu Xiaoyue, a flash of astonishment and confusion appeared on her face, but Xiao Lin’s words quickly interrupted her thoughts.

“We’ve arrived in Hawaii, which is where the drawing is. However, I don’t see any dark seawater. Why is that? You said you wanted to seal Poseidon. Are you planning on doing it yourself?”

Xiao Lin’s string of questions caused Silverlight to furrow her eyebrows. After thinking for a moment, she said in her clear voice, “That isn’t black seawater, it’s the sea god’s Guardians. Their bodies are black, and create that effect when they are near the surface of the sea. The gray areas are their mouths. I think they appeared here to receive and protect Poseidon. As for the last question, regretfully, if I was able to defeat Poseidon, I would not have needed to escape to Planet Norma.”

Xiao Lin was flabbergasted. “You still asked us to come here. What can we do?”

“Don’t worry, Poseidon’s seal is definitely not open yet. I estimate it was just slightly loosened, or the thunderstorm would not be on such a meager scale.”

“Meager?” Gu Xiaoyue raised her head and looked at the dark sky outside—the raindrops were causing very shocking impacts on the window.

Silverlight looked at Gu Xiaoyue. Xiao Lin did not know if his senses were off, but he felt like the woman seemed to be measuring Gu Xiaoyue. Likely noticing Xiao Lin’s attention, Silverlight quickly withdrew her gaze, mockingly saying, “Do you really think that something called the sea god would only be able to do this much?”

Xiao Lin fell silent. “Then if the sea god’s seal was completely erased, and his power fully returned, then how much stronger would he be compared to right now?”

Silverlight thought about it. “Probably over ten thousand times stronger. I’ve already told you that he was around Planet Norma’s Legend rank.”

Xiao Lin sighed. If Silverlight’s words were true, then if Poseidon really got out, even if the academies sent all their top experts to fight him, ignoring the laws, Earth would be left destroyed, no matter the result of the battle.

“What should we do?”

“Perfect the seal!” Silverlight already had a plan, so she explained, “Initially, even if I’ve never seen it myself, I understand the seals from back then quite well. As long as you bring me to the seal, I’ll be able to make up for any flaws on the seal!”

“Then do you know where the seal is?”

“I don’t.”

Xiao Lin was speechless as he massaged his forehead. “I feel like we should stop going around in circles. Could you just explain everything in one go?”

“That’s because you keep interrupting me.” Silverlight looked at Xiao Lin and continued, “The sea god’s Guardians won’t leave Poseidon. Since they’re here, it means that Poseidon is almost positive to be around the area.”

Xiao Lin suppressed the urge to interrupt, but Gu Xiaoyue said, “Even so, how could we avoid the Guardians? You said that Poseidon has Legend-rank powers. What about the Guardians? How powerful are they.”

“The strongest are at Epic levels, but it’s impossible for them to be that strong now. After slumbering for tens of thousands of years, they would have lost most of their powers, so I think they’ll probably be around Gold-rank in power.”

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue looked at each other, both seeing each other’s doubts. They were not scared, but if they were honest, it was impossible for them to beat anyone at that level, even if they worked together, let alone now when they did not know how many opponents they would have.

“Maybe we can have other people help us distract the Guardians.” Xiao Lin remembered those people from the sea earlier. It was obvious that a few academies had sent their people here.

Xiao Lin could not help but add, “Or maybe we could ask Dawn Academy for help.”

He was not worried about being punished. With Song Junlang and the student union president, on top of the dean as his backers, the academy would not punish him in any substantial way.

“I don’t trust them.” Silverlight clearly rejected it, and she was unreasonable. Xiao Lin could not beat her in a fight, nor could he reason with her.

They rested in the wooden house for about an hour, and more and more conversations could be heard in the rain. They spoke in English, but there were too many countries that did too. However,

after Gu Xiaoyue carefully listened for a few minutes, she determined that they were Americans, which meant that they were very likely from Judge Academy.

They could not clearly hear the conversations in the rain, and could only grasp a few vague words, such as temple, remnants, and monsters.

“The Sea God’s Temple? Poseidon’s remnants?”

Xiao Lin translated the words to Silverlight after she failed to understand them, asking her if she could think of anything. The woman might have learned Mandarin in a short time, but English was still a foreign language to her. Silverlight’s expression was a little astonished. She did not think for too long, sighing as she said, “I don’t think they’re talking about the Sea God’s Temple, but rather Atlantis’s temple. Back then, we built many temples for the gods, but most of them had probably been destroyed after the disaster. If any of them were to remain till this day, it would be the Priest’s Shrine.”

Chapter 418 - Volcano on the Island

Chapter 418: Volcano on the Island

Atlantis’s remnants birthed a lot of legends, such as some ancient buildings being discovered in the bottom of the ocean. It had been talked about by many throughout the years, and it was hard to distinguish fact from fiction.

As a very ancient civilization that was once fairly prosperous, even if they encountered an unthinkable disaster and were suddenly destroyed, they would still leave some traces even after thousands of years. Thus, it was quite understandable that there would be remnants left on Earth; they just had not been discovered yet.

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue exchanged a look; they had heard about Atlantis before this, and now they were standing in front of this grand piece of history. It was possible that they would be the first people in the entire world that would step into the remnants of the ancient civilization.

Thinking about that, Xiao Lin felt a sense of excitement despite his concern.

“If the other academies notice the remnants first, do we need to go there?” Gu Xiaoyue was serious, and continued to think about the problems they could face.

Silverlight’s tone was quite firm. “I don’t know how your people found the remnant, but I can be sure that they won’t be able to go in even if they found it. They had probably only noticed the approximate location, because... Basically, the Priest’s Shrine is not something anyone can go into.”

“That explanation is not very convincing.”

“You don’t believe me?”

The two women stared at each other, and Xiao Lin wiped away the cold sweat on his forehead as he hastily ran between them, stopping their argument as he asked, “Silverlight, how are we going to enter the remnant? If Atlantis’s remnants are all in the bottom of the ocean, are we actually going to dive underwater?”

“Yes.” Silverlight nodded.

“Yes?” Xiao Lin’s eyes widened. If it were not Silverlight, he would probably have thought that he was being pranked. Diving into the ocean in search of a past relic was quite a joke.

Gu Xiaoyue rolled her eyes at Xiao Lin. She seemed to have understood Silverlight. “Are you planning on using some spell to shield us from the waters?”

“No, it’s hard for me to explain it quickly in my current state, but I don’t have that sort of power right now.” Silverlight looked at their puzzled expressions and decided to ignore the explanation, turning around to leave as she said, “Whatever, just come with me. I’ll bring the two of you there, but I hope it’s still in the same place.”

Looking at Silverlight floating in front of them, coupled with the dark sky, Xiao Lin felt like the atmosphere was very weird. In truth, Silverlight could turn into her solid form, but in her own words, it would use up her already diminishing spiritual strength, so it was only to be used when she had no other choice, which was why she chose to float around.

The three of them started to walk deeper into the island, which also allowed them to avoid the Judge Academy members on the beach. As they left, they seemed to hear more people nearby, who were probably from the other academies. However, they all had their sights on the beach, which allowed Xiao Lin to sneak away easily.

Xiao Lin did not know where Silverlight was taking them, and even Silverlight said she did not know when she was asked, which caused him to be speechless. After walking for over an hour, he just decided to treat it as a sightseeing trip, even if the island was currently a mess.

After walking for a good while, Silverlight stopped, her face looking like she was hesitant about something. In the end she sighed miserably, muttering, “It looks like I’ll need to waste some energy. I can’t believe it’s already impossible to pick up the trail!”

After saying that, Silverlight’s half-transparent body started to solidify. It was her changing from the spiritual form to her solid form. Xiao Lin had sneakily researched it before; it was not something that any spirit could do, which was enough to show how special Silverlight was.

After solidifying, Silverlight’s white, tiny bare feet landed on the ground. After that, she closed her eyes, quietly standing there with her head half-raised.

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue did not disturb her because they both felt the rising energy that was frantically gathering toward Silverlight’s body. Even though this was not Planet Norma, natural energy was something every planet had since it was the foundation of life

After about five minutes, Silverlight suddenly reopened her eyes, suddenly releasing a white light that hurt to look at. Xiao Lin shut his eyes, and when he opened them again, seeing how Silverlight looked filled him with curiosity and shock.

That third eye on Silverlight's forehead had actually opened. Silverlight had once accidentally told Xiao Lin that some Atlanteans had a third eye, and Lilith had once said before that legends had been seen on Earth a long time ago about an ancient race that had three eyes; it was just that the legend had never been proven.

Silverlight's third eye was very strange. It had no pupil and was completely white. It was quite horrifying to look at, feeling like something out of a horror movie, but thanks to Silverlight's peerless face, it instead had a strange beauty to it.

"Follow me."

Silverlight's voice turned even more apathetic, and she walked ahead in large strides after speaking. Xiao Lin was worried that she would find it inconvenient to walk with her bare feet, but he quickly squashed the thought.

Silverlight was faster than expected; it was no exaggeration to say that her strides seemed like she was flying. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue started out only quickening their pace to follow, but Xiao Lin had quickly been forced to use Phantom Steps to barely keep up. Gu Xiaoyue was in worse straits; she had nothing outstanding other than her Intelligence, so she could only allow Xiao Lin to pull her hand along. She had no way to escape it this time.

After another hour, Silverlight started to slow down. They had long since gone past an empty little town. In front of them was a scorched black rock that had white vapor billowing from it. Xiao Lin once again jumped; the geographic knowledge that he had learned in university was once again useful.

In front of them was a volcano called Kilauea; it was on the south-eastern side of Hawaii. That was one of the world's largest and most impressive volcanoes, and most importantly, it was one of the few active volcanoes on Earth. Ever since the 80's, its eruptions had not stopped for decades.

Looking at the situation, it seemed like Silverlight was bringing them to the mouth of the volcano!

Chapter 419 - Rock

Chapter 419: Rock

Kilauea was one of the rare few active volcanoes nowadays, but thankfully the torrential rain had caused the ground to cool down. However, even so, going closer was not a good idea.

Just as he was going to voice that out, he noticed that Silverlight had suddenly picked up her pace. Silverlight looked very strange with her solid body, her white feet leaping across the cooled lava, but somehow managing to avoid being stained by dust or mud. Compared to walking, it was more accurate to say she was teleporting, or at least it felt that way. Every step she took covered several meters.

Even Phantom Steps could not keep up, and Xiao Lin prepared to use the higher level Footprint Mirage, but when he heard Gu Xiaoyue panting next to him, he paused. Turning around, the rain

had long completely drenched her. Even with the raincoat he had given her, Xiao Lin could tell that the beads of water on Gu Xiaoyue's forehead were not raindrops, but rather sweat.

To Gu Xiaoyue who had very ordinary endurance and physique, she was already at her limit. Any increase in speed would be torture for her.

Xiao Lin sighed, saying, "This is an active volcano; it could erupt at any moment. Let's just let Silverlight scout ahead. We'll wait for her here."

Gu Xiaoyue subtly nodded, but glared at him. She was smart enough to know that Xiao Lin was using that as a reason for them to rest. With her unyielding temperament, she would not allow herself to hold anyone back, even if her body could not keep up.

It was desolate and empty near the volcano. Xiao Lin had seen on the news that the area used to be inhabited, but everyone had moved away due to the constant eruptions. There was nowhere for them to seek shelter from the rain nearby, so the only thing that could give them any cover was the raincoat that Xiao Lin had given Gu Xiaoyue. Due to how rushed everything was, they failed to prepare a lot of things.

Gu Xiaoyue naturally wore the raincoat, but she quickly noticed that Xiao Lin only had a T-shirt on. Her lips moved as she said softly, "Together."

"What?" Xiao Lin paused.

Gu Xiaoyue's face seemed to redden a bit as she shyly repeated, "You must be very cold there; the raincoat can somewhat block out the rain, so let's share. It's fine if you're not willing."

"Of course I'm willing!" Xiao Lin immediately scurried over.

Even though the raincoat was large, the two of them barely fit in together. Their bodies hugged closely together, and with only their thin clothes between them, Xiao Lin could feel Gu Xiaoyue's heat and subtle fragrance.

Gu Xiaoyue pursed her lips tightly, lowering her head, refusing to meet Xiao Lin's gaze or say anything else.

Time seemed to freeze at that moment, even though it could not be considered romantic with the torrential rain. Xiao Lin nonetheless felt a strange sense of peace, even somewhat hoping that Silverlight would not come back.

However, his happiness was short-lived. After a little over ten minutes, Silverlight could be seen coming back. Gu Xiaoyue leapt away from Xiao Lin like a frightened rabbit, Xiao Lin somewhat regretfully licked his lips, even staring at Silverlight with an aggrieved look. It was hard to see anything in the curtain of rain, but Silverlight's third eye glowed brightly in the dark, and could be seen from far away. When Silverlight closed in, Xiao Lin's attention shifted toward an object Silverlight was holding.

Silverlight was holding a rugged rock with distinct edges. It was gray throughout, looking like a volcanic rock formed by cooled lava. Xiao Lin curiously teased, "Did you spend the entire day performing a geological check on the volcano?"

Silverlight ignored his joke, saying, “We need to use this to enter the remnants underwater.”

“What?”

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue’s eyes widened, and their questions quickly got an answer. Silverlight was probably too lazy to explain again, so she immediately took action in front of them.

Silverlight raised the rock in a very careful manner, as if what she carried was a living thing instead of a rock. She held it slightly high, right in front of the eye on her forehead and letting the light that shot out cover the rock before standing there, unmoving.

After about half an hour waiting, Silverlight still stood there like a statue. Xiao Lin was getting impatient, but he quickly sensed a change in the rock. The rock’s pitch black hue was quickly fading, as if it had only been painted with a layer of black by someone and the white light was stripping away the paint, washing the rock clean.

After the black surface was peeled off, what appeared in front of them was a half-transparent, faintly glowing glass-like and pearlescent...animal?

The white rock suddenly moved by itself, causing Xiao Lin who was observing to jump in shock as well. He rubbed his eyes in disbelief, and the rock in Silverlight’s hand started to struggle violently. It started to reveal eyes, mouths and other organs, then legs, a tail...

Turning a rock into an animal, Silverlight looked like she was performing transfiguration. Xiao Lin started to get even more curious about the mysteries of Atlantis under the rain.

When the final speck of black disappeared from the rock, Silverlight’s body started to sway before she collapsed. Xiao Lin was quick, and he shot forward to support her, but his hands only flew through Silverlight’s body. Silverlight’s third eye was once again shut tight, only revealing a protrusion. She had also returned to her spiritual form, floating once again after she collapsed.

Silverlight gasped slightly, her face full of fatigue despite being in spiritual form. Xiao Lin also noticed that her body had darkened. Spirits were just a gathering of energy; once that energy was used up, spirits would dissipate.

Thanks to Dawn Academy’s library, Xiao Lin had learnt quite a bit about undead spirits. Even though Silverlight did not say anything, and she also seemed very strong, Xiao Lin could not help but worry. She was probably the last creature left from Atlantis. Even just looking at it that way, Xiao Lin did not wish for Silverlight to die there.

Chapter 420 - Submerging to the Seabed

Chapter 420: Submerging to the Seabed

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

The animated rock looked a little like a hamster, but its body was half-transparent. It had a short tail, and eyes as big as beans. It looked really pretty and had thin limbs. The little guy frolicked around the floor after being animated, looking very happy.

Silverlight pet the thing tenderly after floating again. Even though she had no physical touch in her spiritual form, the little thing mysteriously closed its eyes in enjoyment, even affectionately rubbing its head against Silverlight's palm. When it found that it went through Silverlight's palm everytime it tried, it showed an obviously pitiful expression.

"I raised it to adulthood back then, and I haven't seen it for years. I felt its aura when we reached this place; I can't believe we managed to reunite after so many years." Silverlight's cold gaze turned unusually warm, but her words were shocking. It was not a matter of one or two years.

"Hold on, you're saying this little guy is an animal from Atlantis's time?"

"That's right."

"How did it survive for so many years?" Gu Xiaoyue asked in disbelief.

"Just like what you saw earlier: hibernation. It can stop all the functions in its body, causing its metabolism to be essentially zero, allowing it to live for many years. Only, hibernating like that requires our race's powers to revert."

"What's it called?"

"#@\$@..." Silverlight uttered a strange language.

"What? Oh, you're talking in your language." It was obvious this animal had no direct translation. Xiao Lin looked around, smiling, "Let's just call it Little Bai for now."

Gu Xiaoyue rolled her eyes at him, but Silverlight did not object. She said, "It will bring us to the bottom of the sea. Follow me."

The volcano was near the sea, and once they got to the beach, Little Bai did not even need Silverlight's commands before it jumped right into the sea, disappearing beneath the waves. Xiao Lin had been worried that its frail body would not be able to withstand the waves, but a gigantic figure appeared in front of them not long after.

Compared to its form the size of a palm earlier, the Little Bai in front of them had expanded by dozens of times. Its body was still half-transparent, as if it were a sponge that had taken in water.

"It can change its body shape and size at will." Silverlight explained.

Xiao Lin could only sigh at the ancient creature. The way they dived into the sea was also strange, as Silverlight made them go into the animal's stomach.

It was quite a big difference from what they had anticipated. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue exchanged looks, obviously not willing to be swallowed, but they were already in a difficult spot, and could no longer afford to turn around. After hesitating, Xiao Lin carefully walked into Little Bai's open mouth, although it might be better to call it Big Bai at that point.

Its stomach was quite warm, and Xiao Lin's feet felt sticky, but other than that, there were no other uncomfortable feelings. Xiao Lin also noticed that there did not seem to be any internal organs; its entire stomach seemed to be very empty. After swallowing the two of them, Big Bai jumped into the sea.

With their rapid descent, their surroundings got gradually darker, and the beast quickly started to emit a warm glow. The glow was quite strong, illuminating almost an entire kilometer around them. Its body was good at withstanding the water pressure as well, allowing Xiao Lin to admire the view underwater in peace. Even though they did not have the mood, it was still a memorable underwater journey.

After a few minutes Gu Xiaoyue furrowed her eyebrows, softly asking, "It's strange. Why can't we see any other aquatic life?"

"Is it because of Poseidon?" Xiao Lin guessed.

Speaking caused their ears to buzz, and there was a lot of echoing around them too, which was why they spoke softly. The spirit Silverlight had things the easiest; she said, "Yes, Poseidon's power comes from the ocean. Even after tens of thousands of years, sea creatures have a natural fear of him in their genes, and will naturally run away."

The sea was really devoid of life; they could not even see a single fish swimming around. All that was left was cold and silence, Silverlight said that her beast was very sensitive to the auras of living beings, and it had interacted with Poseidon before, so it was familiar and able to find Poseidon.

"Silverlight, you mentioned genes earlier; did Atlantis already study genetics all those years ago?" They were still quite a distance away from the remnant of Atlantis that Silverlight spoke of, so Xiao Lin used idle chatter to fill up the time. Talking in the quiet seabed was quite a new experience.

"Yes, but it's not that complete. I translated it into your language, but we've always regarded it as god's forbidden domain. In truth, genetics are somewhat related to talents on Planet Norma. Talents come from genes; it's something people are born with. We've also researched it back then, but never went deep into it as it was too difficult."

"God's forbidden domain? Meaning that only god can study it? How interesting. You were talking about Poseidon earlier, and based on our current legends, Poseidon is basically a god. I'm curious, did gods really exist back then?" Xiao Lin's interest peaked.

"Yes, but not entirely," Silverlight said something similar to the last time.

The corner of Xiao Lin's mouth twitched. "Why do I feel like you're just patronizing me?"

Silverlight glanced at him. "To put it simply, you once told me humans evolved from apes, then to apes, humans were basically a god-like existence, but do you really think yourself as gods?"

Xiao Lin pursed his lips, only half understanding. "So gods are only more evolved beings, is that it? Poseidon is still basically a human, but of course a human from your era."

"Yes, but not entirely."

“Can you not give me a different answer?”

“Evolution doesn’t go in a straight path; it moves in many interweaving paths. The destination of each path is unknown and unpredictable. We had an interesting view back then. Every living thing has the same foundation. In the beginning, Earth only had single-celled beings, and those beings went through countless years growing and evolving, and after that, their descendants did so too, finally transforming into the countless living beings on Earth, but you still can’t say that every living thing is the same.”

Chapter 421 - Ruins

Chapter 421: Ruins

Poseidon was the god of the sea in legends, but Xiao Lin was not someone who believed in gods. Planet Norma had legends of a god as well, a good example being the high priest who believed that god created the planet.

What was a god; that was not just related to legends, but philosophy. It involved faith and other things, and even Silverlight could not provide an explanation that could persuade everyone.

“Big Bai really is special; what is his body made of? He really doesn’t seem like a normal living being.” After talking about gods, Xiao Lin was extremely curious about that thing. He’d already gotten used to calling the thing Big Bai. Even Gu Xiaoyue had gotten tired of cursing that name.

“It’s a man-made living thing.” Silverlight’s gaze turned a lot warmer whenever she talked about the thing. “It’s completely unique. Even back then, it was made from countless high-level techniques. It doesn’t need to eat, at least, not like how normal living beings would. It’s metabolism is also very unique. It also had extremely high endurance, capable of living in the harshest environments.”

They had long since reached the deepest parts of the sea, which was enough to prove how hardy the guy was. It also sped through the sea at incredible speeds, not losing to any form of aquatic life.

It was extremely special, and Xiao Lin could not help but be even more curious of the Atlanteans that created it. It was a pity that the civilization had already sunk into the sea.

“We’re almost there!” After some time, Silverlight suddenly exclaimed in a low voice.

It was already pitch black the moment she finished speaking. Big Bai’s body had stopped glowing completely. Silverlight explained that it was to avoid startling the Guardians. Even if their plan was to circle around them and have the academies occupy the guardians, it was impossible to guarantee that there would be none of them nearer to their destination.

As the light was fading, Xiao Lin seemed to get a glimpse of the ruins. It might be more accurate to call it a wreck, he could somewhat see a few broken down stone pillars and statues covered with algae. The rest of it was buried under sand and stone.

Whether or not Atlantis's ruins existed on the bottom of the ocean was something heavily debated, and now they were basically witnessing history. Just thinking about it was a little moving, but Xiao Lin was quite puzzled. With the ruins like that, how were they going to do anything without any diving suits or any other equipment, and how were they going to enhance the seal?

Silverlight and Big Bai quickly produced the answer. The surrounding darkness did not affect it at all, and Big Bai suddenly sped up, moving quick as lightning. Its body also changed into a sharp needle-like shape. Xiao Lin silently cursed, knowing what they were planning to do.

After a few seconds, Xiao Lin felt a huge impact in the darkness. Even Big Bai's soft water-like body could not absorb enough of the impact to completely cushion the blow for Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue. Big Bai had rammed straight into the ruins with them as passengers.

It was a simple and violent solution, but it was quite effective.

Silverlight said that the guy could change his shape and hardness at will, and was capable of piercing through the hardest armor, let alone normal stones and sand.

After a few minutes, the surroundings started to get brighter, but it was not from the light of Big Bai's body. They had arrived in a sealed off space, and Big Bai opened its mouth to let them out. Xiao Lin observed his surroundings, all around them were strangely smooth stone walls. There were indentations in fixed distances that had football-sized diamonds on them, which was the origin of the light.

The hole that they smashed through already had seawater pouring in, but under Silverlight's instructions, Big Bai shrunk down into a white lump before bouncing up into the hole, plugging it like plaster, leaving no cracks for the seawater to flow in.

Xiao Lin was speechless; that little guy could do anything.

"It still looks the same!" Silverlight looked around, sighing.

"Is this the temple? There are no signs of damage inside."

"We built it to be able to withstand the most severe of earthquakes, so that's no surprise. If not for the fact that the entire mainland had been submerged into the sea, the temple would still be perfectly fine now." Silverlight walked as she introduced the temple to Xiao Lin.

In truth, the actual area of the temple was larger and more majestic than that. That was obvious from Silverlight's descriptions, but the outer buildings had already been destroyed by the disaster, or eroded away after thousands of years under the sea, so the only part that was left were the remnants in front of them.

The corridor they were walking on connected the outer section to the inner section; it was the most central corridor in the temple. The inner area was isolated, completely sealed away from the masses. Xiao Lin could not help but admire the Atlantean architects for being able to design such a unique building, allowing the temple's innermost area to be undamaged to this day; it really was quite miraculous.

The corridor was very long, and artwork adorned the walls around them. Xiao Lin could not understand most of them, but after patient observation, he tried to find some clues of the ancient civilization from them. It was a futile endeavor, however, as Atlantis and current civilizations were way too different, be it in their lifestyle or their values, so it was hard to understand anything.

After a moment, Xiao Lin's eyes shone as he shouted, "Hold on!"

His voice echoed for a long time, sounding quite scary. Gu Xiaoyue turned around with an annoyed look, and Silverlight looked back in confusion. Xiao Lin had already walked to the wall on the left, using the light that the diamonds emitted, he pointed toward one of the drawings, and said to Gu Xiaoyue in a strange tone, "Do you still remember what it looked like when we took the interspatial carriage back?"

As Gu Xiaoyue nodded, she noticed the strange thing as well. She sucked in a breath, unable to help herself as she walked closer to the wall.

The artwork was very simple: a simple passage represented by a line. In the passage were countless dots, and on both sides of the passage were two very strange people. One had a third eye that was glowing and the other had a pair of wings.

Chapter 422 - Traces of Poseidon

Chapter 422: Traces of Poseidon

The three-eyed person represented Atlantis's natives. As for who the winged person represented, Silverlight had never mentioned angels or demons in Atlantis.

Of course, what Xiao Lin was the most interested in was the passage. No matter how he looked at it, it was like the passage between Planet Norma and Earth, the dots would then represent the Times and within the wormhole.

Silverlight had long since said that Atlantis had records of the passage to Planet Norma, but for it to have been on the wall just like that meant things were not so simple.

Was the civilization of Atlantis closely related to Planet Norma, or were their interactions shallow?

It was all already impossible to know. Silverlight was the only one alive from Atlantis, and she did not know much about it either. However, Silverlight was not interested in that at all, and under her instructions Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue once again moved forward.

At the end of the corridor was the main hall, one that was quite small. It was basically a sealed off room, yet it was very majestic despite the size. The four walls were all made of gold, and the floors were made of a special blue metal.

It was completely different from the temple Xiao Lin had in mind. He had envisioned a temple with statues or sculptures in the middle, where they could give offerings or light incense.

There was still a statue in the middle of the temple, but the statue was strange. It was not a person nor a god, nor was it some animal or some totem; it was just a ball.

Gu Xiaoyue and Xiao Lin exchanged a puzzled glance before rubbing their eyes, making sure they were not hallucinating. There was not much else in the hall, but in the center was a pedestal that had a colorful, glowing, two-meter large ball of light that was slowly rotating.

Xiao Lin cast a confused gaze at Silverlight, but he could see the questioning look in Silverlight's eyes. Before he could ask, Silverlight said, "This is wrong!"

"What's wrong?"

"How is this here! The main hall shouldn't look like this!" Silverlight looked around, but the entirety of the hall could be seen easily.

Xiao Lin felt that it was strange as well. As the center of the temple, it was too empty, and too clean. There was nothing at all, which was definitely not normal.

"Don't forget why we're here; where is Poseidon's seal?" Gu Xiaoyue reminded them that they were not there to reminisce about history.

"Silverlight, you said you could feel Poseidon's energy; what about now? Where is the energy?" Xiao Lin temporarily put his curiosity away. Sealing Poseidon was more important.

Silverlight looked around, but her gaze still fell on the colorful ball in the middle. Xiao Lin immediately understood. Just as he thought, if anything could seal Poseidon here, it would be the strange orb.

They carefully walked closer and noticed that the orb was not entirely solid. There were numerous smaller balls floating inside it, all seemingly held together by a formless energy, slowly rotating.

Xiao Lin shut his eyes, calming himself and quickly entering his meditative universe. He felt an extremely strong energy that was very close. The energy felt like the raging sea. His meditative realm was still not strong enough, and had been filled by the energy in a moment. He felt like he had been drowned by the sea in his meditative state.

Xiao Lin immediately opened his eyes, his breathing extremely erratic.

Silverlight looked at him and guessed what Xiao Lin did, saying, "You're too naive."

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly. "I just wanted to know how powerful this god from the legends is. He really does live up to his name, and he's been sealed? I believe you now; if this guy really is released, even if the world isn't destroyed by him, his power would disrupt all the laws."

"The solar system." Gu Xiaoyue's attention had been captured by the orbs in front of her, and she suddenly said those words.

"What?" Xiao Lin paused before turning around to look, and his expression turned strange as well.

Inspecting the orbs closely, they did not move erratically, but were instead rotating around a center point while rotating themselves as well. The center was a fiery red diamond.

If that symbolized the sun, and they made their guesses from that, Xiao Lin quickly figured out another surprising coincidence. There were eight orbs revolving around the diamond in the center, all with different colors, which coincidentally represented the eight planets in the solar system. The deep blue one was obviously Mercury, and the light blue one Earth, the yellow one was Saturn. The furthest orbs had icy, half-transparent looks, which as far as Xiao Lin knew, represented Uranus and Neptune, which were covered in ice.

Eight planets, which meant Pluto was excluded. Only recently did modern scientists decide that Pluto did not fulfil the requirements to be a full-fledged planet, yet Atlantis had long since created such a life-like solar system. No matter how much he understood of the ancient civilization, Xiao Lin could only sigh in regret. He was not an astronomer, but he believed that if a real astronomer was here to make some calculations, even the speed of the rotations would be accurate.

“How impressive!” Xiao Lin praised.

The question came after the praise.

Surely the Atlanteans did not place the solar system replica inside for worship? He knew from Silverlight’s expression that it was impossible. It was obvious that this was only put here after Silverlight had left Earth. The most important thing was, how was it that they could feel Poseidon’s immense energy coming out from those orbs?

“Is this solar system meant to seal Poseidon?” Xiao Lin’s eyes widened, almost having the urge to reach his hand into the ball.

The one most familiar with Poseidon was Silverlight. However much Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue speculated, they still turned to Silverlight. The woman was no longer as apathetic as usual; her eyebrows furrowed as she closed her eyes, constantly muttering, “How is this possible?”

Only after a long time did Silverlight take a deep breath, her third eye once again open.

Chapter 423 - A New Passage?

Chapter 423: A New Passage?

In a flash, the light that shot out of her forehead caused Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue to take a few steps back, only opening their eyes when they got used to the brilliant light. They waited quietly.

When her third eye opened, Silverlight’s usual two eyes turned extremely cold, as if she was an emotionless robot. She stood there quietly, staring at the orbs that were constantly rotating within the ball. Xiao Lin noticed that only her third eye was looking at the ball.

This time, Silverlight did not take that long, shutting the eye on her forehead after a few minutes, but the fatigue on her face looked serious enough that she could collapse at any moment. However, she did not care. Just as Xiao Lin was worrying, Silverlight dropped a bomb: “Poseidon is not here.”

Xiao Lin swallowed his words, furrowing his eyebrows. “Were you not extremely confident that he was here earlier?”

“I said that, but I only said that I could feel Poseidon’s energy. That was correct; the ball does have his energy.”

Xiao Lin paused, not understanding the difference for a moment. The energy was definitely coming from Poseidon, he had felt it as well. He hesitantly said, “Is it a fake?”

“I’m very familiar with his energy, I’m sure that it’s not fake.”

Looking at Silverlight’s pale face, Xiao Lin did not put any blame onto her at all. Silverlight did not look like she was in a good state. It was unclear if it was because of her using her third eye or if she had seen something unbelievable.

Silverlight sighed, pointing toward the red orb at the center that represented the sun in the solar system. Silverlight slowly said, “Poseidon’s energy is here, but when I used my eye to observe it, I noticed that the energy only came from that red orb. You can enter your meditative state and focus on that area. I think you’ll understand what I mean.”

Silverlight hesitated before deciding to let Xiao Lin see it for himself. Gu Xiaoyue shut her eyes as well, and both of them entered their meditative realms.

Xiao Lin’s realm was an infinite galaxy, but the stars around him were extremely scarce, symbolizing that the density of the elements around here were much lower than normal. Of course, that was no surprise. What caused him to be surprised was not far away, which was where he felt Poseidon’s energy.

This time, Xiao Lin was prepared, and activated Miracle to suppress the sea god’s power within the meditative realm. It paid off, thanks to the mysterious black hole that appeared due to Miracle. The pressure that came from Poseidon’s energy was dissipated. It was like a veil was lifted.

And the truth behind the veil was yet another black hole.

No, when Xiao Lin observed it closely, even though the dark orb-like black hole emitted a strong suction, it was not a black hole. This was the meditative realm; even his mysterious black hole was just a symbolic phenomenon.

Xiao Lin tried to check the interior of the orb; it was obvious that the sun-like orb had some secrets hidden. However, just as he projected his thoughts toward it, a sharp pain immediately shot through his head, and he hastily retreated from the meditative realm, unable to focus.

Xiao Lin opened his eyes, and Gu Xiaoyue had retreated from meditation at the same time as him. The two of them looked at each other with pained gazes. It was obvious that the two of them had done a gutsy experiment, using their mental strength to probe the unknown was extremely dangerous; any mistake could cause them severe damage.

“I somewhat understand it, but I’m still unsure.” Xiao Lin’s tone turned as strange as Silverlight’s was. It was a mix of disbelief and shock.

Gu Xiaoyue nodded. “I seemed to have seen a tiny golden speck that was similar to the sands of time, but I’m not sure if I was mistaken.”

Xiao Lin had a look of revelation. If only one person had seen it, it could have been a mistake, but if it was the two of them, then things were no longer that simple.

He hesitantly looked at Silverlight. “Are you trying to tell us that this orb actually contains another wormhole that offers passage to Planet Norma?”

Silverlight’s expression answered his question, and an ugly look appeared on Xiao Lin’s face. That was absolutely not good news. He remembered Song Junlang’s words: the wormhole was a miracle created by God, pulling two distant planets together in a stable manner, allowing them to pass in the shortest amount of time.

It was absolutely not something that could easily be made. Even the greatest experts of all the academies would not be able to do it together. That was why there were only a fixed number of wormholes discovered at that time, and it had never increased or decreased in a long time. There were even those that hypothesized that there would no longer be any new passages formed unless they were capable of doing it some day.

It looked like that assertion was wrong, but no one had thought that there would be a brand new wormhole discovered under the Pacific Ocean, in an ancient ruin.

However, Xiao Lin had no shred of joy at discovering it, because the problem it presented was even more severe. Poseidon’s energy was constantly emitting through that passage, which meant that Poseidon was on Planet Norma.

Xiao Lin threw his questioning gaze at Silverlight. Everything originated from Atlantis all those years ago. Whatever happened then had already long since been lost, and there was only one person that could offer any answers.

Silverlight was in distress, even getting close to tears as she shook her head, muttering, “I don’t know, I really don’t know. This is something that’s impossible.”

Silverlight constantly repeated those words, causing Xiao Lin to get a little impatient. They were there to seal Poseidon, but now they discovered that Poseidon was not even on Earth. It was turning into quite the joke.

“No matter what happened then, I want to understand. No, as someone from Earth, I have a right to understand what the truth is.”

“I wish to know as well.” Silverlight’s face reverted to her cold expression.

“Yes, so what now?”

“So let us go witness the truth for ourselves!” Silverlight’s expression turned into one of determination.

Chapter 424 - Returning to the Past

Chapter 424: Returning to the Past

Silverlight's expression was weird, and she did not wait for Xiao Lin to speak before activating her third eye again. It was the third time she had used it that day. Even after knowing Silverlight for so long, no matter what he said or tried, he had never seen Silverlight open that eye before.

"You might have heard of it before, but those of us with three eyes were considered royalty back then. It is the symbol of status, and also the greatest power the royalty has."

Silverlight was unusually chatty that day, and she had never even mentioned anything like that before.

Xiao Lin was surprised; when Lilith told him about the three-eyed race, he had thought that all Atlanteans had three eyes. Now he knew that only the royalty possessed it, but did that not mean that the woman in front of him used to be a royal princess?

Silverlight's third eye was fixed on the red orb that represented the sun; the white light that shot out of her forehead concentrated on the orb. It quickly spread, the light turning exceptionally intense, slowly enveloping the entire hall in a surge of light.

Silverlight continued, "Calling us a three-eyed race is actually not that accurate. Even though it might look like an eye, it is actually not. We usually call it our Spiritual Eye. To our race, it ties into our lives. Everyone's Spiritual Eye is unique, and each one has different powers which determines your standing among the royalty... It's similar to your talents on this point."

Xiao Lin nodded in understanding, asking curiously, "Then what's your power?"

Silverlight smiled softly; it was a smile that she rarely showed. Soft and subtle, without a single flaw. She lost her air of coldness, but it only served to increase the unease in Xiao Lin's heart.

"My Spiritual Eye is quite special. It has two powers. The first one is called Truth, it allows me to see through all falsehood. The other is called Rewind; it can look into the past. It's actually also a part of Truth, basically the advanced version of the skill. It's a pity that I only learned the second power after I went to Planet Norma. If I had learned it before..."

Silverlight suddenly stopped there, shaking her head in dejection, smiling. "Whatever, ignore that, there's no meaning to it anymore. I'm going to use my second power."

"Rewind? Can you actually rewind time?" Gu Xiaoyue asked.

"No, that's not something a mortal like me can do. Remember, time and space is forever something only gods can really control. Everyone else is just dabbling in it, and will never have true control."

Xiao Lin said, “So your Rewind, is it basically like watching a movie? Oh, what I mean by a movie is playing everything that had happened again. Ah, even though I don’t understand how you would begin to do that...”

Silverlight looked at him. “Movie? What is that? However, you have the basics right. Rewind can reveal any truth that has been hidden by the passage of time... Back then, I left for Planet Norma at the last moment. Even though I escaped disaster, I’ve always regretted it... Now, I finally have the chance. I’m also curious about what happened back then, so let’s look at the truth of history!”

Silverlight’s determined look surprised Xiao Lin. He suddenly thought of a possibility, and hurriedly shouted, “Hold on! Hold on right there! First, explain that Rewind ability of yours. Does it cause some sort of irreversible harm to you...”

Boom!

Before Xiao Lin could finish, a loud explosive sound had drowned everything out. The light shooting out from Silverlight’s forehead was now at the maximum; it was like a scorching star frantically unleashing light and heat. Trying to look to the side, Xiao Lin had already lost sight of Silverlight and Gu Xiaoyue. All he could see was an endless white light.

Xiao Lin opened his mouth to say something, but he realized that he could not form any sound. He quickly realized that he could not even feel anything beneath his feet, and he was rapidly revolving. Xiao Lin could not exert his mental or physical strength at all, as if all his energy had been stripped away.

Xiao Lin did not like the feeling of being trapped, and he tried his best to struggle. Since his regular state was unable to do it, he activated Miracle, which made things feel a little better, but his body still felt uncontrollable. He clenched his teeth, unhesitatingly activating Ruin.

That was the first time he had used the skill on Earth. As for what sort of impact it would have, that was not something he was considering at the moment.

Ruin improved everything about Xiao Lin; it was like he had injected a stimulant—the extra strong kind. The effects were also obvious, as Xiao Lin could feel all his strength slowly return to him, even if it was very slow. He could already start to control his body and try to stop that seemingly endless fall.

The explosive sound started to quieten down, and eventually could not be heard as the white light around him dispersed as well. It was like someone had lifted a white veil that was over his head. Xiao Lin’s eyes were a blur, and once his vision cleared, he noticed that he had returned to the main hall.

Gu Xiaoyue was lying next to him, and he hurriedly ran toward her and shouted. The strange thing was that his voice seemed to echo unendingly, as if he was in an extremely wide space.

“She’s fine; she just fainted because she’s not used to the experience. She’ll wake up quickly.” Silverlight’s voice could be heard. Since her voice was on the warmer side, Xiao Lin did not get angry, but still looked at her with a questioning gaze.

Silverlight did not answer immediately, instead looking at Xiao Lin with a measured look before nodding. “I can’t believe it. My Rewind is equal to completely building a new time and space. Normal people would find it very hard to get used to it, but you only needed such a short time to awaken.”

Xiao Lin paused. “You used Rewind?”

Silverlight nodded quietly.

“So we’re now back to the era of Atlantis?”

“No, I’ve said that my Rewind cannot truly rewind time. We’re still in your era. I just used some methods to open a small window in the corridors of time, allowing us to look through that window to find out what happened.”

Chapter 425 - The Truth Behind History (1)

Chapter 425: The Truth Behind History (1)

Xiao Lin looked around him, and it did look like the main hall they were at earlier, but the decorations around the main hall had completely changed. The solar system replica had disappeared, and in its place was a statue of a woman made of gold. The surroundings were also no longer empty, instead filled with various decorations as well as a lot of offerings.

Sunlight shone through the corridor that led to the main hall, signalling that it was day time outside, and the place was no longer under the sea. Just as Silverlight had said, they really were looking at the Atlantean era.

Xiao Ling glanced at Silverlight with a complicated gaze, sighing. There was no point in saying anything since Silverlight had already used it, and she did not look like she had any problems either.

Xiao Lin picked up the unconscious Gu Xiaoyue and walked through the long pathway with Silverlight. The sun was quite bright, and Xiao Lin had to squint his eyes as he looked at the entire temple. Just like Silverlight had said, the entire temple was incredibly huge. Tall statues, dazzling buildings, unending corridors and rows upon rows of believers.

The believers were gathered in the public square, their mouths chanting some sort of religious scripture. Silverlight’s eyes were misty; it was obvious she was reminiscing of the past. It took awhile before she averted her gaze, calmly saying, “This is the temple before I left. The disaster has already appeared, and they’re praying to the gods.”

“You mentioned a disaster before, but what was it?”

“I don’t know.” A look of exhaustion flashed on Silverlight’s face. “To this day I have not managed to clear it up. All I know is that my father told me the world was going to be destroyed. It was a power that came from the void, something that we could not defend against. Most of us did not mind back then, until the sea god’s betrayal...”

It was a long story, but their time was limited, so Silverlight had given him the simplified version. Xiao Lin only barely understood. Poseidon was originally the protector of Atlantis, but at some point he suddenly betrayed them for unknown reasons. The sea god controlled the whole world's oceans and headed toward the prosperous civilization, bringing on the start of the disaster.

Xiao Lin was looking at a time where the disaster had long since started, so he could not see the cause. Furthermore, Silverlight's body had been greatly weakened, and Rewind itself had its limitations. They could only see what had happened nearby, but were unable to see what was happening in the mainlands of Atlantis.

Gu Xiaoyue only woke up after half an hour. After Xiao Lin explained things to her, the few of them looked around the place. It was a pity they could not go far. The moment they walked past the boundaries of Silverlight's power, they would start to feel faint and be transported back to the main hall.

Being unable to take a look at the civilization of Atlantis was doubtlessly regretful, but Xiao Lin could only wait where they were. Based on what Silverlight said, the end was fast approaching, which was the time Atlantis fell. The wait was quite dull, especially since Xiao Lin realized he did not understand what the believers were saying, and all they did was chant something he did not understand.

They could not see Xiao Lin, and Xiao Lin could only see and hear. Touching them was completely impossible. It really was like watching a movie, and they were just spectators to history.

"I was sent to Planet Norma not long before this."

"Yes, you've mentioned it before, but who sent you away?"

"My father. He did not wish for me to be buried with the rest of Atlantis."

"What a noble father, but why didn't he go with you?" Xiao Lin chatted away to pass the time. Silverlight rarely talked about herself, so he took the opportunity to understand more.

"He could not leave, nor could he abandon his people."

Xiao Lin paused, saying, "So you really are a princess."

"A princess of a dead kingdom," Silverlight replied calmly.

Xiao Lin thought of another person: the little girl Ibeiya. She was also royalty, and strictly speaking, a princess as well. He had heard that Ibeiya's old kingdom was at war before he went back, and was even facing extinction. Xiao Lin began to wonder how Ibeiya was doing.

Xiao Lin shook his head, refocusing himself, "Then what about that black dragon? How did you get to know her? She told me before that she had been to Atlantis too."

"Onyxia? As for her, you'll see her soon enough. I told you before that Atlantis's pathway to Planet Norma was originally sealed. It was because Onyxia suddenly broke in that the passage was activated again. She caused quite a big scene here, and caused quite a bit of harm. My father had hunted her before, dealing her heavy injuries, so we do have a grudge against each other."

“No wonder she did not seem to like you.” Xiao Lin had somewhat resolved a question in his heart.

“However, she isn’t that bad, at least back then... Oh, she’s here.” Silverlight was interrupted by a dragon’s roar in the skies.

Just like the believers, Xiao Lin immediately raised his head. The black shadow that blocked the sun began to descend, and the large body of a black dragon came crashing down, reducing half of the public square into rubble. Even though she seemed a lot smaller, no matter how he looked at it, that dragon was the same Onyxia he had met in the isolated space.

As the rubble flew over, Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue wanted to dodge, but quickly realized that they would not be harmed as spectators. They decided to go closer, and were shocked to realize the dragon had injuries on her whole body.

She was fighting someone, but who could beat a dragon that was at the top of the food chain to this degree?

They got their answer in minutes; the clear skies instantly turned dark as clouds began to form, blocking the whole sky. The winds started to howl. Xiao Lin was familiar with the sight; if torrential rain was added, then it was basically the same as Hawaii on Earth.

The answer was obvious: Poseidon the Sea God!

A human silhouette could be made out in the dark sky. However strong the wind was, he did not move an inch. The dragon that fell on the floor once again let out a roar, flapping its wings and taking flight.

After that was a bitter battle, an unimaginable duel.

Xiao Lin had felt the power of the black dragon before, but it was only now that he realized that the dragon had not used her full strength. The shockwaves that came from their battle seemed to destroy everything, person and temple. They were all destroyed in the howling wind. The beautiful temple had already been turned to ruin. The only thing left untouched was the main hall.

Chapter 426 - The Truth Behind History (2)

Chapter 426: The Truth Behind History (2)

The temple they walked out of was very special, remaining unharmed despite the intense battle going on outside. The rest of the surroundings were in bad shape, causing Xiao Lin to think about apocalyptic scenes he had seen in movies. The believers had all already died, not even leaving flesh and blood behind. It was not just destruction, but pure annihilation, causing everything to be vanquished.

“Is this the power of the Sea God?” Xiao Lin suddenly felt a sense of regret; they could not feel the intensity of the power through the passage of time, but could only witness what was happening in front of them.

“Onyxia can’t beat Poseidon,” Silverlight said calmly as she walked forward.

“I can see that.” Xiao Lin nodded. “It’s strange. You said Poseidon was around Legend-ranked, and Onyxia had to be at that power level as well. The gap between their skills should not be so obvious.”

“That’s due to the restriction of natural laws. Onyxia does not belong to Earth, so her powers are greatly suppressed here. On top of that, she’s been injured by my father.”

“Then why is she fighting Poseidon?” Xiao Lin could not understand it.

“You’d have to ask her.”

“Fine.” Xiao Lin continued watching the battle. He noticed an even greater change after that: a very obvious crack had appeared on the dark sky. It was like glass that was about to shatter at any point, which made for a shocking sight.

Xiao Lin was familiar with such a scene since he had seen it in The Final Lands. He did not think too much about it back then, but he suddenly realized something upon close observation: it was what happened when the laws of a given space were starting to crumble.

Poseidon and Onyxia’s intense battle was a fight of Legend-rank proportions. Even if Earth was still quite stable back then, it could not withstand a battle of such a scale, so it was not surprising that the space around them was starting to crumble.

Could that be the root of Atlantis’s demise?

Xiao Lin observed Silverlight. The woman might still be maintaining her calm facade, but it was obvious that her feelings were complex since she did not know what had happened then.

If the space were to crumble, then even Earth itself would cease to exist, as would modern civilization, so this battle could not be the reason for Atlantis’s disappearance.

The few of them patiently watched on as the battle waged on for about half an hour. The black dragon had even used her destructive dragon breath, but under her restrictions, the power was not even half of what it could be. Comparatively, Xiao Lin was far more interested in Poseidon.

Silverlight saw through his thoughts and waved her hand. They suddenly rose into the air, floating in mid-air. They were merely observers, so they could naturally choose what perspective they wanted to look from, be it lying down, standing, or even flying...

Poseidon had the face of a middle-aged man, his body extremely large and well-built. He was at least twice the size of a modern male. On his body was silver-colored armor, and his hands held a massive trident. There was also a third eye on his forehead which was open at the time, exuding a glow that had the same color as the blue of the sea. The light was locked onto Onyxia, causing layers of web-like objects to litter around Onyxia’s body.

“He’s also of the three-eyed race?” Gu Xiaoyue asked.

“If the legends are true, and he created Atlantis, that would not be strange,” Xiao Lin answered. Silverlight did not say anything.

The cracks in the dark sky were getting increasingly severe; it seemed ready to shatter at any time. The ground began to shake as well, and lava could even be seen flowing out of several places. Xiao Lin believed that this was just a part of the destruction that befell Atlantis before its downfall. There were probably a lot of other disasters happening in places they were not able to reach.

If this went on, the spatial collapse would happen in a matter of seconds.

The black dragon was using more and more power, and Poseidon seemed to have unlimited strength and energy. Meanwhile, Onyxia was weakening rapidly. She slowly seemed unable to even raise her wings, and her hard scales were unable to protect her as her heavy breaths were getting abnormally erratic. She was obviously at her limit.

Poseidon slowly descended from the sky, only indifference exuding from his freezing blue eyes. He did not hurry to kill Onyxia. Instead he fiercely hurled his trident, nailing the dragon’s wing. A lightning-like energy followed.

Roar!

The pitiful cry of a dragon filled the air as the trident flew through the sky by itself, returning to Poseidon’s hand. The next second, the trident once again shot into the air, piercing into Onyxia’s other wing.

It happened a third time, a fourth time, a fifth time...

Onyxia’s body was quickly covered with wounds. Xiao Lin then understood that Poseidon was just toying with the dragon, not hurrying to kill her.

The black dragon’s cries had slowly softened. She seemed to be quickly losing even the power to cry out. The dragon lay powerlessly on the ground, her large eyes exuding hatred.

Xiao Lin and Onyxia were not really friends, but the black dragon had let him go back then. Even if he knew it was the past, he could not help but want to do something. With how hopeless the battle looked, Onyxia’s plight caused him to feel pity for her.

“Silverlight, what would happen if I were to attack right now?” Xiao Lin suddenly asked.

Silverlight rolled her eyes. “You can try.”

“It would be pointless,” Gu Xiaoyue reminded him in a low voice.

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly. He already knew. It was just like trying to fight with someone in a TV show—an utterly stupid and laughable act.

However, Poseidon’s next action caused Xiao Lin’s temper to flare even higher. The light from Poseidon’s forehead had completely shrouded Onyxia. In the blue light, the black dragon’s body slowly faded, and what appeared in its place was a curvaceous woman with a stunning, naked body.

The black dragon was female; Xiao Lin had known that before, but the fact that Poseidon could force the dragon to transform with his power was incredibly hard to imagine.

Onyxia lay on the floor, half-conscious, no longer possessing the might of a dragon. She looked incredibly pitiful, but Poseidon's eyes had no trace of empathy. After a flash of surprise, his eyes turned profane and sadistic. He kept his trident and walked toward Onyxia. On the way, his armor slowly disappeared, revealing a strong and nude male body.

Gu Xiaoyue could not help but look away, her red face filled with rage.

Silverlight remained calm as usual.

As dumb as Xiao Lin could be, it was obvious what Poseidon was planning to do next.

Chapter 427 - The Truth Behind History (3)

Chapter 427: The Truth Behind History (3)

Onyxia had completely lost all ability to fight back. Even if she was a dragon at the apex of Planet Norma's food chain, she was currently in human form. The look of horror on her beautiful face and the shuddering of her body made for a pitiful sight.

If she was on Planet Norma, Onyxia would definitely not be afraid of Poseidon, but they were on Earth. Xiao Lin had heard from Song Junlang about natural laws a long time ago. They were basically the safeguards in individual spaces, but at that time, the safeguards were harmful to Onyxia.

Poseidon was completely nude. The blue rays that shot out from the eye on his forehead completely restricted Onyxia.

Xiao Lin could not stand watching something like that happen in front of his eyes, even if this was just a playback, an absolutely realistic 4-D one. It was hard for him to detach himself from the scene. Even if it was a movie, anyone who saw such a scene would be filled with rage, what more seeing it right in front of him.

Xiao Lin could not help but look toward Silverlight again. If history really did happen like that, he at least hoped that Silverlight could just skip through the extremely uncomfortable scene.

Silverlight saw through his thoughts before he even spoke, sighing, "I know what you're thinking. We can't interact with Time Rewind. Remember that we're just observers—observing means we can only look on as it happens."

"Despicable!"

The rage in Xiao Lin's heart was unable to be soothed. He glared as he suddenly fired a flame bullet out of his hand. Just as expected, the flame bullet went through Poseidon's body, the space behind him unaffected as well.

In that corridor looking through time, anyone or any object in front of them was just an illusion. There was nothing they could do. Silverlight sighed, shaking her head but not interrupting. She was a woman as well, and what was happening in front of her was naturally hard to accept. It was just that she was adept at controlling herself, knowing how to stop any negative emotion from showing.

The naked Poseidon drew closer and closer, and Xiao Lin clenched his teeth, increasing the speed he was throwing out his flame bullets. At this point, he had already mastered the spell. He just needed to open up his hand, and in one or two seconds, ten flame bullets would shoot out from his fingers at a rapid fire speed.

Bang!

After half a minute of firing, the intense attacks had added onto Xiao Lin's mental exhaustion. He was about to stop, panting, but was suddenly surprised as he stopped his casting for a moment. An expression of disbelief was on his face.

Silverlight and Gu Xiaoyue seemed to have noticed something, and turned around at the same time as they looked at Xiao Lin in shock, gaping as they said at the same time, "Impossible!"

Xiao Lin paused for only a few seconds before replacing his shock with excitement. He had just been floating in midair, but Silverlight had already taught him how to move around the space freely, so he immediately sped toward Poseidon. It felt quite strange, as if he was swimming in water.

Poseidon's footsteps stopped only meters away from Onyxia, a confused look appearing on his apathetic face. He raised his hand, scratching his face as if he had an itch as the eye on his forehead swept around his surroundings before he started to relax again.

"How is this possible!" Silverlight's face went through numerous changes. She had been keeping her cool, so she could clearly see that those flame bullets that Xiao Lin shot out just to vent his frustrations had all shot past Poseidon!

If one threw a stone at someone on a TV screen and the person fell down because of it, anyone would be shocked.

"Did you not say earlier that we were just spectators?" Gu Xiaoyue suddenly appeared next to Silverlight. The two women had not really talked much during this time. Gu Xiaoyue was someone who did not speak much. Silverlight was even more extreme than her, since Silverlight did not really have anything in common with modern humans.

That was why Silverlight felt that Gu Xiaoyue's initiative was strange, but she still shook her head.

Gu Xiaoyue then said, "However, you did not actually explain it clearly. Xiao Lin said it was like we were watching a movie, but he was wrong. This isn't a movie; movies are fake. But everything happening in front of us is definitely real. To put it in another way, it's just like we're closed in a secret room, observing the outside world through a glass."

Taking a deep breath, Gu Xiaoyue stared into Silverlight's eyes, continuing, "To us, the world outside the glass window is still very much real. They have flesh and blood, just like us. If we break

through the glass, we can still enter the outside world. You deliberately concealed the fact from us when you used Time Rewind, because for us, even standing here poses an incredible uncertainty and danger to us!"

Gu Xiaoyue's tone had changed to a low and questioning one toward the end. Xiao Lin was rushing toward Poseidon. Even an idiot would know what he wanted to do. Gu Xiaoyue obviously knew that, compared to Poseidon, even the three of them together might not be worth any attention.

If the glass was really shattered, setting aside if they could change history, they absolutely would have to surrender their lives there. Even though Earth was also within the coverage of resurrection towers, it did not mean that they were covered within this time corridor. Gu Xiaoyue definitely did not want Xiao Lin and her own life to be lost here for no reason.

Silverlight broke her silence to agree. She said with some fatigue, "Your ability to understand things is admirable. Not bad. You're quite close, but don't worry, the strength and thickness of the glass window is basically an unrivalled existence. From your academies, even those of Legend-rank would not be able to break it with their attacks."

"Then how do you explain that!" Gu Xiaoyue pointed at the ground mockingly.

After the initial excitement died down, Xiao Lin also had the possibility pop into his head, but he did not dare ascertain it, so he went closer to experiment. He did not bring any close range weapons, so the only thing he could rely on was magic.

His chain casting of flame bullets passed through Poseidon's body as usual without affecting anything, but when he increased the number of flame bullets, Xiao Lin was surprised to notice that one or two of the bullets would occasionally not pass through, and cause a weak flame to stick to Poseidon.

Xiao Lin was very familiar with the sight. It was what happened whenever flame bullets struck an enemy.

Chapter 428 - Wall of Time

Chapter 428: Wall of Time

Poseidon's footsteps stopped again, shooting a cold gaze toward Xiao Lin's direction. Xiao Lin suddenly tensed up, but after a few minutes, Poseidon once again averted his gaze, but the confused look in his eyes did not go away.

Xiao Lin, who was only a few feet away from Poseidon, felt like his heart was about to jump out of his throat. He might be venting with his attacks, but he understood very well that if the Poseidon in front of him was real, he would definitely die.

However, Poseidon did not do anything, which meant he did not see Xiao Lin right next to him at all. Even the mysterious eye on his forehead could not detect anything.

Xiao Lin did not understand what was happening at all. Since the start, it felt just like Silverlight had said, and he was merely an observer to history, unable to do anything but watch on like it was a movie. However, that no longer seemed to be the case. Even though it was not that obvious, and he could not guarantee that it was true, his attacks seemed to occasionally be able to affect Poseidon.

The most crucial thing was that Poseidon was unable to feel Xiao Lin's presence. That man had Legend-ranked power. If Xiao Lin was really standing in front of Poseidon, the man could probably use one finger to reduce him to dust, not even leaving behind any traces.

Xiao Lin continued to experiment a few times. A spell the level of Flame Bullet was basically a mosquito bite to Poseidon. It was something he could completely ignore. However, if the mosquito was completely invisible and unable to be found, then it would be very strange. Even a god would be unable to ignore such a thing.

The Sea God Poseidon was definitely not an idiot. He could ignore the first one or two shots, but coincidences only happen one or two times, not four or five. He quickly started to get suspicious and become alert, using various ways to investigate.

A slew of spells were casted by Poseidon, some of them recognizable by Xiao Lin thanks to him seeing similar spells within the academy library. Most of them were unrecognizable, and he was actually quite worried he would be discovered, yet Poseidon's efforts were in vain.

Xiao Lin switched to attacking with other spells as well, using Flame Ball alongside his bullets. In order to increase his attack power, he even ignored his fatigue and activated Miracle and Ruin. The Flame Balls he could cast in that state were quite shocking, as he had already seen during the examinations.

However, they were still mere tickles to Poseidon, the only difference being the mosquitoes had increased in size. Mosquitoes were still mosquitoes in the end, and Xiao Lin's attacks could not cause Poseidon the slightest bit of harm.

Yet, Poseidon was in a difficult spot, even turning incredibly suspicious. His focus had completely diverted away from the black dragon woman in front of him. He readorned his blue armor, clenching his trident tightly as he remained on alert, ready to attack anything in his vicinity.

The stronger a person was, the more suspicious they would be in that circumstance. Poseidon did not believe anything could fool his eyes, and yet there was something that was avoiding his gaze. It could mean that his foe was even more powerful than he was, so he could not help but be serious.

Xiao Lin breathed a sigh of relief. His constant casting of spells had used up a lot of his mental strength. He never hoped that he could defeat that man; he was not nearly that naive. His only goal was to make Poseidon give up on Onyxia, which had been achieved.

As Poseidon stood there on high alert, Xiao Lin decided to ignore him. He stood on the decimated courtyard, walking next to Onyxia.

During the time Poseidon was being disturbed by Xiao Lin, The various wounds on Onyxia's body had already mostly recovered. As a dragon, the woman had an incredibly strong natural recovery.

It was just that the earlier battle left Onyxia with no room to breathe, unable to completely recover.

Onyxia had already opened her eyes. She definitely found the situation strange. The Poseidon that was about to make a move on her was just standing there instead of moving closer. She noticed that Poseidon was in a defensive stance, but who was he on alert against? Who was helping her?

The recovering Onyxia once again showed off her curvaceous body, causing Xiao Lin's face to redden. Even though he knew that Onyxia could not see him at that moment, he could not help but avert his gaze, muttering to himself, "Onyxia, you spared me back then, so I owed you one, and now we owe each other nothing! Yes, I know you can't hear me, but I'll just remember it myself!"

"What? Who is that! What are you talking about!" Onyxia suddenly said in a low and agitated voice.

Xiao Lin was shocked, ignoring the woman's naked body as he turned back and noticed Onyxia's gaze was looking toward him, but he was certain the black dragon could not see him at that moment.

However, Onyxia seemed to be able to hear him for a moment just now!

"That's enough! Stop doing something so dangerous!" Silverlight appeared next to him, glancing at Onyxia before strictly warning Xiao Lin, "You've already disturbed the space-time continuum! If you don't wish to be stuck here forever, stop what you're doing!"

"I don't understand. Didn't you say that we were just observers? How could Poseidon have felt my attacks and Onyxia hear my words!" Xiao Lin was completely confused at that point. He was hoping to get an answer from Silverlight.

It seemed like Silverlight was even more lost than he was, but the woman quickly calmed down, fixing her gaze on him as she said seriously, "I don't know how you broke the unbreakable wall of time, but the reason isn't important anymore. Remember that we are still observers; that fact has not changed. Breaking the wall of time will wreak havoc on time and space. I can't even imagine the consequences, but I believe that it won't be something you or the era you live in can handle!"

Pausing for a moment, Silverlight calmed her tone of speech down. "Thankfully, you only opened a small crack. There shouldn't be anything wrong if we leave now! I don't know how you did it, but I suggest that you refrain from doing anything."

"But..."

Xiao Lin, who was sweating buckets, wanted to say something, but Onyxia seemed to have noticed something the moment he opened his mouth and looked over with a bewildered expression. Silverlight furrowed her eyebrows, staring at Xiao Lin as she hissed softly, "Shut up! Don't say another word!"

Chapter 429 - Destruction

Chapter 429: Destruction

Xiao Lin had a look of innocence. Gu Xiaoyue had walked over as well, staring at him with a look bearing confusion and complexity. After that, she mentioned her earlier conversation with Silverlight. To put things simply, they were beginning to turn from observers to interferers.

Even though they did not understand much about time and space, they still had the most base of understanding. Nothing good would come out of changing history.

“If we leave now, wouldn’t we have come for nothing?” Xiao Lin was a bit unwilling. It was not easy for them to use Time Rewind to return to thousands of years ago. There were still a lot of questions they needed answered, such as where Poseidon was sealed, what a wormhole was doing in the temple, and what happened to Atlantis during its last moments.

If they were to leave, all those questions would be buried in the river of time.

Xiao Lin looked at Silverlight. She had maintained her noble coldness the entire time, but the fatigue on her face was more and more difficult to hide. It was a rare sight on Silverlight, and the sense of unease Xiao Lin had from before got even stronger. He started to feel like an ability like Time Rewind was not something even someone like Silverlight could use easily.

If they left now, they might not get a second chance to come back.

“Let’s just wait a little more!” Xiao Lin said carefully, noticing that Onyxia did not seem to have heard him this time. He relaxed and continued, “We at least need to see how and where Poseidon was sealed.”

Silverlight had her doubts as well. She was even more concerned than Xiao Lin about the final fate of Atlantis, so she wanted to watch till the end as well. She touched the eye on her forehead. Ever since they walked into the corridor of time, her eye had been constantly open. She finally sighed. “Fine, but don’t do anything dangerous. No, you best just hide far far away!”

Xiao Lin was frustrated, but could only nod in agreement. It really was quite strange. His attacks and his words could both affect history. Gu Xiaoyue and Silverlight had talked for half a day, yet nothing had happened.

Regardless, Xiao Lin retreated far away for the moment, at the very least, until Poseidon completely dropped his state of alertness. Poseidon had stopped trying to hurt Onyxia for the moment, and Onyxia took the time to prepare herself, relying on the incredible regenerative abilities of the dragon race. She once again turned into a black dragon, shakily standing on the ground for a moment before shooting up toward the sky. She had already lost the ability to continue fighting, and could only fly away from Poseidon.

The pause in the battle allowed the shattered sky to slowly stabilize, but the cracks that had already formed were hard to mend. Poseidon paced around the area a few times. Xiao Lin was not sure if he was doing something or just looking for potential foes. He obviously could not see Xiao Lin.

The only thing left in the rubble was that temple. Poseidon finally stopped in front of the temple, raising his trident, and the sky that had finally quieted down was once again filled with thunder and lightning. Countless streaks of lightning filled the dark sky like a web, constantly descending and gathering, yet they all connected with the trident.

The entire trident suddenly glowed brilliantly. Then, Poseidon once again rose into the air, hurling it forcefully to the ground. With the sharp crack of thunder, the trident embedded itself deep underground.

After minutes of silence, the ground started to shake. The shaking got more and more intense as it spread further and further away.

As the ground shook, it visibly started to sink at rapid speeds. In the horizon, the waves began to grow taller. The mainland had been thoroughly destroyed, and seawater had swallowed everything. This time, there were no longer any distractions. Xiao Lin noticed Onyxia hiding among the skies, but she had already lost all energy and courage to continue fighting.

“This must be the fall of Atlantis.” An entire civilization was being destroyed in front of his eyes. Xiao Lin had complicated feelings about it.

“Yet Poseidon still hasn’t been sealed,” Gu Xiaoyue recalled, looking at Silverlight.

Silverlight said that when she left Earth for Planet Norma, there were those who tried to seal Poseidon away, but other than Onyxia, they had yet to see anyone stand up to fight against Poseidon.

The destruction of the mainland continued for a very long time. There was no night or day here, and no way to tell the time either. Xiao Lin felt like at least a few days had passed, but Poseidon just quietly floated in the air the entire time, trident in hand as he channeled the power of the lightning underground, unceasingly destroying the foundation of the land.

After a certain period of time, buildings could no longer be seen at all. As far as the eye could see, there were only oceans. The only thing remaining on the vast expanse was the lonely temple. As the central part of the entire compound, it was also the highest point of the area, which meant it was the last to sink. However, it was only a matter of time.

Xiao Lin fell silent with them for a long time. He no longer dared to speak since he was worried Poseidon would hear them. Furthermore, none of them knew what to say facing the annihilation of a civilization. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue could look on as spectators, but that was Silverlight’s hometown. She was watching the destruction of her home. It was definitely something unbelievably cruel.

Xiao Lin glanced at Silverlight a few times, trying to find sadness on her face, but facing her calm expression, Xiao Lin did not know how to console her.

All the way to the end, no one appeared to seal Poseidon like Silverlight had said. If someone had encountered a problem on the way or if something else had happened, now that everything had been swallowed by the sea, no Atlantean could possibly appear now, unless Atlanteans had gills.

“It has to be over.” Xiao Lin let out a deep breath, finally speaking after a long silence, looking toward Silverlight. He asked when Time Rewind would end.

Silverlight’s expression suddenly changed. She suppressed her rage as she said softly, “I told you not to say anything!”

“Huh?”

“Watch out!” Gu Xiaoyue cried out an alarmed warning.

Xiao Lin turned around when she said that. Poseidon had launched his trident toward his direction. He wanted to dodge, but Poseidon’s strength was too shocking. The speed of the trident caused Xiao Lin to be unable to even react. In a second, it had already pierced through Xiao Lin.

There was no blood, nor was there any pain. Xiao Lin let out a long sigh of relief, still in shock. To Poseidon, he was still just an illusion. Even Legend-ranked attacks had no effect.

After a moment, the rumbling which had long stopped started to intensify again.

Chapter 430 - The Broken Wall of Time

Chapter 430: The Broken Wall of Time

Xiao Lin touched his chest, not feeling any wounds or scars. That trident that could even pierce into the black dragon was just an illusion to him, but the sudden rumbling that followed caused Silverlight to reveal a never-before-seen sense of nervousness.

Xiao Lin started to feel like his sight was getting blurry. He tried rubbing his eyes, but it did not change anything. He then realized that it was not his eyes that were blurring, but the entire space in front of him. Just like Gu Xiaoyue had said, if they were separated from Poseidon by something like a glass window, then the window was now cracking and reaching the point of shattering.

It could have been because of Poseidon’s trident, or maybe just Xiao Lin’s special physicality. The reason was unclear, but Xiao Lin only understood one thing: Poseidon had locked onto Xiao Lin.

Even though that glass window had blocked Poseidon’s sight, Xiao Lin was very sure that the man had completely ascertained his position. Being locked into by a Legend-ranked person was basically putting one foot into the coffin.

“Silverlight! Didn’t you say that the wall of time can’t be broken?! Didn’t you say that the small crack would not cause the situation to worsen?!” Xiao Lin asked in shock. Poseidon’s aura had already begun seeping into their surroundings, proving that the wall of time could no longer shield them from the outside world.

Poseidon’s expression was quite special, starting out with confusion before turning into shock, finally settling on a cold smile, as if saying, ‘My prey, I’ve found you!’

“Don’t panic! The wall of time is very strong. Those without Time Rewind can’t get in here!” Silverlight quickly and calmly judged.

However, Poseidon defied expectations. He stood in front of Xiao Lin, and a pair of eyes that were blue like the sea and cold as ice fixed on him. They were still separated by the wall of time, but Poseidon’s eyes seemed to be able to see everything.

Xiao Lin tried to leave, but he realized that his body had already been trapped in blue light, completely restricted just as Poseidon had restricted the black dragon. That was the ability that Poseidon's third eye had, and the power seemed to be able to pass through the cracks on the wall of time.

Gu Xiaoyue noticed that Xiao Lin could not move, and did not hesitate to make a move. However, even if she was so gifted that everyone in Dawn Academy admired her, her spells did nothing at all to Poseidon. Gu Xiaoyue's spells were mainly focused on support as well, so her offensive capabilities were lacking. Even more awkwardly, Gu Xiaoyue's spells only shot right through Poseidon's body, meaning she did not have enough power to pierce through the cracks on the wall of time.

Gu Xiaoyue could only stand powerlessly. She shot Silverlight a pleading gaze, but Silverlight was even more powerless than Gu Xiaoyue. Silverlight had already said that she did not have much combat ability currently, and she had not been joking.

A roar was suddenly heard right as everything was the most tense. The roar of the dragon in the sky started to close in. Onyxia, who had been hiding in the distance, had not escaped out of fear. She was instead just regaining her strength and biding her time. The moment Poseidon put all his attention onto figuring out Xiao Lin's location, Onyxia's chance came.

The dragon did not have much strength left, so she chose to use the most violent mode of attack: using her humongous body that was as strong as steel to ram into Poseidon. The meteoric speed created a horrifying impact that even Xiao Lin, who had the wall of time between them, felt affected.

Poseidon could not avoid it, having put too much focus onto Xiao Lin and forgetting about the dragon. The man and the dragon both fell right into the sea, but Poseidon was just as strong. In the waves, all they could see was a few more wounds on his bare body.

An attack that put the life of a dragon on the line only brought forth such trivial injuries!

Onyxia angered Poseidon, and he raised his hand, trying to pull the dragon that was already back in the air into the sea. The sea was Poseidon's domain. In there, he could even fight toe to toe with Onyxia with his bare hands.

"Now! Run!" Gu Xiaoyue immediately shouted, but there was no response.

"Silverlight!"

"No, now is not the time!" Silverlight's face was very pale. She really looked like a ghost at that moment. She shook her head powerlessly, biting her pale lips as she said softly, "Poseidon's aura disrupted the stability of the wall of time. Time and space cannot be easily played with. If I end Time Rewind now, we could very possibly be thrown into nothingness, never able to go back. However, the wall of time can repair itself. It just needs time..."

Xiao Lin asked, "How long?"

"Calculating by Earth time, not more than twenty-four hours."

Xiao Lin's heart sank. Looking at the battle in the sea, Onyxia was no match for Poseidon underwater. No, even if they fought in the air, the black dragon would only be toyed with.

24 hours?

With the current state of things, they did not have that long. Onyxia could not possibly hold on for more than one or two hours, and Poseidon would then set his sights back onto them. While the wall of time was repairing itself, they had absolutely no way to retaliate against Poseidon.

Two Black-Iron ranked recruits, on top of an essentially powerless ghost; how long could they withstand Poseidon?

"Xiao Lin, we..." Gu Xiaoyue looked at Xiao Lin. She was not afraid of death, but she did not want to die in such a place.

Xiao Lin's face was dark. He took a deep breath, then smiled at Gu Xiaoyue in consolation. "Don't worry. Nothing will happen. I won't allow anything to happen to you!"

Gu Xiaoyue felt some warmth in her heart. As she was about to say something, Xiao Lin had already walked to Silverlight. Silverlight lowered her head, saying, "I'm sorry, it's because of me that the two of you..." Just as Gu Xiaoyue had said, it was because she had hid the true dangers of Time Rewind that this happened.

"What good is an apology now!" Xiao Lin interrupted her impatiently before asking, "I remember you once said that you had planned to seal Poseidon, right?"

Silverlight paused before answering, "That's right. That was indeed the plan, but you've seen it as well. Those people have probably already died."

"Do you understand the seal?"

"I was the one who found the seal in the ancient archives."

"Oh, that's perfect! Is the sealing hard?"

"It is a lost sealing method, but it is not that hard."

"Good, then let's seal Poseidon!"

Chapter 431 - Sealing (1)

Chapter 431: Sealing (1)

Silverlight had already guessed what Xiao Lin wanted to do, but the moment he finished speaking, her face immediately changed, rejecting the idea on the spot. "No! I told you the wall of time separates us from the other side. Don't think it's made out of paper. We definitely won't be able to unleash the sealing power over there!"

“Yet we can feel Poseidon’s aura here,” Gu Xiaoyue immediately retorted.

Silverlight glared at Xiao Lin with a difficult look. “That’s because the wall of time had cracked thanks to you, but you saw it earlier as well. Poseidon’s trident could not attack you. He could only make his aura seep through.”

“Just the aura alone is enough to kill us!”

“Since the wall of time won’t allow the seal to take effect, then just break it! Let’s just go over to that world and seal Poseidon!” Xiao Lin said decisively, looking at Silverlight. “Tell me, how do you break the wall of time!”

“You’re crazy!”

“Do you know how severe the consequences of breaking the wall would be?”

“It would distort time and space, causing chaos to the laws of Earth. At that point the entire world will be filled with disasters!” Silverlight raised her voice, intensely arguing against the suggestion.

“You said that the wall of time could regenerate itself. Atlantis has already sunk into the sea anyway. Who cares if it floods or a tsunami strikes. We’ll just let the wall of time recover slowly!” Xiao Lin shot back without backing down.

“Absolutely not! Even if it can recover, it will cause irreversible consequences! We would be destroying history!” Silverlight’s rebuttal was just as fierce.

Xiao Lin replied, “Destroying history? Please, no one has appeared to seal Poseidon at all. If Onyxia dies, Poseidon will rule the world! That would really be rewriting history! I really don’t want to go back only to realize that the world has turned into a sea ruled by Poseidon!”

“Whatever you want to do, I think we should make a decision fast,” Gu Xiaoyue interjected, pointing toward the battle that was happening in the ocean. “The dragon will only be able to hold on for an hour or two.”

Xiao Lin and Silverlight were shocked. From the situation earlier, Onyxia could at least hold on for half a day, but now that they turned to look, their faces darkened

Onyxia had indeed managed to hold Poseidon back initially by putting her life on the line, but at the same time, Poseidon’s temper flared even higher, causing him to break his own limits. Onyxia, who long reached her limits, could barely hold on. Facing the enraged Sea God, she could no longer fight back.

Thankfully, the hard scales were the natural born gift of dragons. Facing Poseidon’s intense assault, they could somewhat mitigate the damage. However, the dragon was still facing Legend-rank attacks. The scales might not be able to last over an hour, no matter how strong they were.

However, what Silverlight cared even more about was the dark sky. It was a lot darker compared to earlier, and the cracks that were already beginning to stop started to look like they were getting worse, and the speed was noticeably faster than before.

Silverlight's face was dark and uncertain. She raised her head to look toward the half-shattered sky before looking back toward Xiao Lin, calmly saying, "Fine, I will agree to your suggestion. We will start the sealing process!"

Pausing for a moment, she explained, "I miscalculated. I did not expect Poseidon to have such terrifying power. What I knew before leaving Earth was not his true strength. This is... To put things simply, his power has already severely affected the balance of Earth. If we leave it be, Earth's balance will be forever destroyed in a few hours! We need to stop him!"

"If that's the case, then stop talking so much. Tell us how to get to the other side!"

Silverlight had her own plans. She calmly said, "I need to warn you first, we do not belong in that time. Once we step across the wall of time, we will turn into a disturbance instead of an observer, and Earth's laws will start to reject us. If we take too long, the consequences will be dire!"

Xiao Lin replied, "At the most, we die! It's still better than Poseidon destroying Earth, affecting even the modern world."

Silverlight looked at him with a meaningful gaze. "No, it's a punishment more painful than death... Whatever, you don't need to know this. If it gets to that point, even if you know... Basically we don't have much time, and Poseidon won't give us much room to prepare, so we need to prepare for the sealing here, and immediately commence once he steps over the wall of time!"

Silverlight did not care if Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue understood her. She immediately sped up her speech, "The seal originally needed six people working together to create, but we only have three of us. However, we're lucky that Xiao Lin has a talent. Talent holders are the same as us with third eyes, and will strengthen the sealing effect, but I don't know how much it will help."

Xiao Lin raised his eyebrows. He had never told Silverlight that he was a talent holder.

Pausing for a moment, Silverlight said, "The success rate is around ten per cent."

"If we don't succeed, we die. Is that the gist of it?" Xiao Lin translated Silverlight's words.

After leaving the wall of time, they would lose their protection, and Poseidon would be able to see them and kill them easily, so they only had one chance to seal him. It would be hard for him to sense them until they walked out of the wall. Otherwise, their only option would be to die.

There was not much time left, and Silverlight immediately started to teach the two of them the sealing spell. Xiao Lin remembered that the upper years had classes on sealing, and the field itself was very deep and vast. However, Silverlight did not give them any explanations, completely ignoring the reasons and theories, getting right to the most important parts.

Silverlight might have agreed to Xiao Lin's suggestion, but she did not have any confidence in it. The 10% success rate was actually her most positive estimate. If she took into account the fact that Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue had no knowledge of sealing at all, as well as the time constraints, it was impossible for beginners like them to immediately be useful in such a short time. Silverlight had absolutely no confidence. She even believed that the actual success rate was probably less than one in ten thousand.

Chapter 432 - Sealing (2)

Chapter 432: Sealing (2)

The seal that Silverlight was teaching could be called incredibly hard, yet incredibly easy at the same time. As a seal meant for those Legend-ranked and above, the seal was extremely special. It did not require one to be all that skilled in sealing, nor did it require high level magic from the caster. The main driving force behind it was the power of the caster's life force.

The field of sealing was extremely complicated, but Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue did not need to understand it, so it greatly lowered the difficulty of learning the seal.

As Silverlight said that, Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrow tightly, interrupting her, "Life force? Don't tell me that we need to trade our lives for the seal!"

"That's the lowest price. Who do you think our opponent is? That's the Sea God Poseidon. Even a black dragon cannot beat him. A price like this is already very low," Silverlight said reasonably.

"Only life is needed?" Gu Xiaoyue said, her point of emphasis completely different from Xiao Lin's.

Silverlight looked at her with a strange expression. "There was an interesting view during my time about the value of life. I won't give you the details, but the basic meaning is that, at some level, no matter the riches or power one possesses, all life has the same value. That seal was founded on this principle, using an equal exchange."

Silverlight understood Xiao Lin's hesitation, which she had already taken into account as she added, "You don't need your entire life. You're all protected by the law of the academies, so your souls will not exhaust themselves here, and the life you lose can always be regained."

"Let's do it then." Gu Xiaoyue did not hesitate anymore after understanding.

"No!" Xiao Lin resolutely rejected it.

"We don't have any other choice!" Gu Xiaoyue knew why he was against it, but she was not touched at all.

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue stared at each other, neither willing to back off on the matter. Silverlight looked on by the side, her eyes sparkling as if thinking of something before she said to Xiao Lin, "If you're worried about that, you can volunteer to give up even more of your life. You actually don't have to worry. You have a special law within yourself, and the seal will not interfere with the law, which will guarantee you to have some life force remaining.

After a few minutes, Xiao Lin finally decided to cooperate. They did not really have much time left, and he knew Gu Xiaoyue. There was no way he could do anything about it.

What followed was the basic steps behind the sealing. The seal was actually not too hard, but comparatively, it was still incredibly hard for complete beginners.

Silverlight was very detailed and meticulous, she worried that the two of them would be unable to understand in such a short time. Initially, Gu Xiaoyue and Xiao Lin's faces were lost and confused, but Silverlight was not surprised, calmly explaining it again. They were short on time, but if they did not really master the seal, then nothing would matter.

After five minutes, both of them had a look of realization on their face.

After ten minutes, the two of them started to have a half-decent understanding.

After twenty minutes, their expressions had brightened, fully digesting everything Silverlight was saying.

After thirty minutes, Xiao Lin raised his head from his thoughts. Gu Xiaoyue was a little slower, but by just a few minutes.

"I don't think I have any more questions."

"Me too."

Now came Silverlight's turn to be surprised. She measured the two of them hesitantly. "There can be no mistakes in the sealing process. It's best that you ask anything that you don't understand right now."

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue exchanged a look. They were not that surprised themselves. Ever since Xiao Lin's Academic Genius talent went to level two, he slowly realized his learning capability had noticeably increased. He might not be able to completely understand everything at a glance, but he could still understand most of it.

Gu Xiaoyue was also incredibly talented at magic, and seals were a branch of magic, so her understanding of the subject was incredibly shocking.

"It's naturally impossible to understand it completely, but it should be enough for us to simply copy it," Xiao Lin said, the two of them were like novices who did not read, but could copy the words in front of them. The concept was simple, yet effective.

"Then let's start!"

Silverlight was still doubtful, but they really did not have that much time. After that half an hour, looking back, Onyxia was already at her limit. All her scales had already been pierced through, revealing countless wounds of various sizes.

Silverlight had said that the wall of time was an unrivalled existence. Even though they still could not figure out how Xiao Lin so easily broke through it, its power was relative. The moment the first crack appeared, it had started to weaken. Then, thanks to Poseidon's attack, it weakened it even more. It was currently in a very shaky state.

All Silverlight did was softly wave her hand in the air. Everywhere her fingers were, a light would start to emit. The glow got more and more vibrant. That was what the wall of time looked like when it materialized, and upon closer inspection of the colorful light, one would notice countless cracks on it.

However, the wall of time could mend itself, and the colorful light was slowly dispersing. It was just that it would take a lot of time to recover.

“I will emphasize this once again, the moment we leave this wall, Poseidon will immediately know our whereabouts. With how powerful he is, we will only have one chance to make it work.”

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue both nodded.

Silverlight grunted, looking deeply into their eyes before turning around. She rushed toward the wall of time in large strides. The moment she touched the wall, the light from her forehead got even more intense.

Bang!

With the heavy sound of shattering, the wall of time’s glow started to waver before dimming. A hole appeared in the middle. It was not large—just enough for an adult to squeeze through.

“Move!”

Silverlight waited for the two of them. They needed to all go to the other side at the same time.

The three of them huddled tightly together, seemingly stepping out of the wall of time at the same time. As Silverlight turned her head around, Xiao Lin was surprised to notice that a trail of blood could be seen from Silverlight’s third eye.

Xiao Lin opened his mouth to say something, but the two of them had already been swallowed by the glow of the wall of time.

Chapter 433 - Sealing (3)

Chapter 433: Sealing (3)

Even though it was called the wall of time, it was not a real wall. Looking through the hole, it was filled with multicolored light, and Xiao Lin completely lost all sense of direction while he was within. There was no sense of time or space, as if even his thoughts had frozen in space.

The moment felt extremely long, yet abnormally short.

Xiao Lin blinked, and when he opened his eyes again, the lights had already disappeared. What followed was the sudden sense of falling. The wall of time’s hole was in the air. Xiao Lin quickly inhaled large breaths of air, not having the time to think of anything else before his hands quickly clapped together, starting the sealing spell based on what Silverlight had taught.

Atlantis’s sealing spells were quite different from those on Planet Norma. Planet Norma was strictly built on the system of magic, and their seals naturally needed a lot of preparation and work to perfect. The Atlantean seals were different; the movements were much more fluid, but it placed a lot more emphasis on the energy output and control.

Gu Xiaoyue did not need to worry about that as someone with so much talent for magic. She had been born with a natural affinity for magic, which was proven in her months in the Academy.

Xiao Lin was lacking compared to Gu Xiaoyue on that front, since he had always placed his focus on his swordsmanship. That was why the moment he reached that world, he did not hesitate to activate both Miracle and Ruin, which greatly raised his perception of energy.

The three of them did not care at all that they were constantly falling as their hands constantly moved, putting all their focus on gathering and channeling the energy in the air and activating the final part of their sealing spell.

Xiao Lin was a bit nervous, but his nervousness was set aside when he felt the shocking amount of energy in this world. Just taking a breath would fill once with seemingly inexhaustible energy.

Energy referred to natural energy, death energy, elemental energy and other similar things on Planet Norma, and once Xiao Lin returned to Earth, he could still feel all of that, but it was much more scarce. He had thought that it was caused by the different natures of the two planets, but unexpectedly, during Atlantean times, the energy density was even higher than that of Planet Norma.

Poseidon immediately sensed the location of Xiao Lin and the others. He had already somewhat felt the presence of a strange aura from the hole in the wall of time, but that was the first time he laid eyes on the three intruders. The three of them included Silverlight. Since she needed to cast the sealing spell, Silverlight had gone into her solid form.

Poseidon was startled for a moment before relaxing. To him, opponents that he could see were much easier to deal with than those he could not. He then revealed a manic smile. Whoever the intruders were, he was confident he could destroy them.

Poseidon immediately readied his plans in his head, smiling coldly as he turned around. He could tell that the injured black dragon in front of him was still a much bigger threat than the falling trio, so he decided to finish off the biggest problem before proceeding.

That seemingly obvious decision had led Poseidon to lose his best and last chance. After a few seconds, he raised his trident to finish off the black dragon, but he felt something as he did. A flash of confusion could be seen on his face. Poseidon was not called the Sea God for nothing. He immediately realized what was happening.

In his shock, he let out an enraged cry, immediately tossing the dragon aside. He shot through the air like a cannon, causing waves hundreds of meters tall to form.

“He noticed!”

“We can still make it!”

“Now is the time! Quickly throw the seal out!”

The few of them shouted at each other in midair, but the roaring winds caused them to be unable to make anything out. However, when Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue noticed that Silverlight’s hands

started to glow, they understood it was time to take action. It was the sign they had planned beforehand.

Poseidon was extremely quick, but Xiao Lin and the others managed to seize the initiative thanks to their preparations. They clapped their hands together and started to glow. When they separated their hands, a light started to emit from their palms, silently floating in front of them.

Poseidon had the ability to fly, but Xiao Lin and the others did not. After releasing the light orbs they continued falling downward. When they were about a kilometer away from the balls of light, the orbs suddenly glowed intensely. Poseidon had his attention completely on those light spheres, and when they exploded, his trident was only inches away.

Poseidon did not stand a chance anymore.

The balls of light started to emit a light blue glow, giving out endless light and warmth. The light shot through the dark clouds in the sky as the heat blew away the coldness of the sea. The rings of light that formed seemed to have a paralyzing effect. Poseidon, who was caught within the rings, froze in midair, unable to move at all.

After restricting Poseidon, the shape of the orbs started to change, from spherical into sharp, uneven objects. All three balls started to produce a thin line, and the line quickly reached the chests of Xiao Lin and the others, shooting right into them before they could even react.

Xiao Lin was shocked to find that the speed of his descent was starting to slow as a strange suction was being emitted by the threads of light, finally allowing him to float in the air. He touched his chest, and the ray of light seemed to have merged with his body perfectly, not leaving any trace of harm on his skin.

Stopping in the air caused Xiao Lin to feel quite dizzy. It was not that he had a fear of heights. It was because of the string of light. Based on what Silverlight had said, for the price to pay for sealing someone so much more powerful than them, they needed to pay with their own lives. Even though Silverlight did not explain it in detail, Xiao Lin could feel the energy leaving his body, siphoning through the light into the orbs in the air.

However, it was not the time to think about all that. Based on what Silverlight said, it was still only the first stage of sealing. They had basically done the first stage perfectly, and the restricted Poseidon had temporarily lost his power.

Xiao Lin and the others had used their lives in exchange for that valuable time. In terms of power, Poseidon far exceeded all of them, but their souls were still equal. Poseidon would need to completely ascend from his current level to break the restrictions.

It was obvious that Poseidon could not, but the power of the restrictions were not absolute. To put things simply, even if they were equal, they might be able to restrict Poseidon for a few minutes, but not longer. Poseidon possessed much a stronger life force than they did, and once the time was up, they would be unable to stand up to Poseidon.

Chapter 434 - Shining Seal Technique

Chapter 434: Shining Seal Technique

That was the most magical part of the seal: it allowed the weak to have the power to go against the strong. As the civilization at the peak of Earth's history, the sealing spell could be said to have been born from the collective expertise of Atlantis.

There was no way to reverse the seal once it started. As Xiao Lin and the others used their life force as a resource, the bundle of light once again underwent an intense change. The bodies of light slowly began to dim and disperse, turning into countless bright spots, like stars in the night sky, bright and brilliant.

That was the second stage of sealing. The life force that they had contributed would serve as the key to the seal. The true sealing had just started, each spot of light started to rise up and expand, slowly turning into arrow-like shapes.

The Shining Seal Technique was the name. Utilizing a sword of light formed through life force, dragged to an equal state, Poseidon's power had been suppressed to the minimum.

Silverlight could not help but cast a few glances at Xiao Lin. Even though it was not the time to be distracted, she had to admit that she was shocked.

Each arrow of light represented their life force, and life came from the soul. Basically, the number and quality of the arrows came completely from their souls. Souls were the purest things, and were something everyone was born with. Hard work and training could strengthen the mind and body, but that could never change the soul.

In front of her, the sky was split into two completely different scenes. Over Xiao Lin's head was a sky filled with stars, as if the milky way had descended, while over Gu Xiaoyue and Silverlight's heads, the arrows were noticeably lesser. There were more arrows produced by Silverlight than Gu Xiaoyue, but it absolutely could not be compared to Xiao Lin. It was like comparing a creek to the ocean.

It was not just Silverlight that was shocked; Poseidon was too. Even though he could not move, as he was restricted, he was still fully conscious. He quickly judged the sight in front of him, and the countless arrows in front of him were a huge threat.

"Is this the power of a talent holder? No, it's not just that, Xiao Lin, you..." Silverlight's murmurings were lost in the torrential winds.

Once the arrows of light had completely formed, the third stage of the sealing finally began. Each of them used their mental strength to control their own arrows, and each arrow started to glow brighter. Rushing sounds could be heard closely after, as each arrow started to pierce into Poseidon.

Firing thousands of arrows at once, the glow emitted was like a miniature sun over his head. Xiao Lin clenched his teeth, clearly feeling his own life force being drained. He could not help but want to turn to look at Gu Xiaoyue, wondering if she, who only had two years left in her life, was doing well, but the bright light had obstructed his view.

Xiao Lin let out a shout, exhausting his energy while under the Ruin state, as he did everything he could to allow the arrows on his head to absorb his life force.

A thunderous roar came from the sky: Poseidon's cry of rage. As the arrows of light completely ignored his armor and pierced into the body, the Sea God started to feel like his life was in danger.

The arrows stuck to Poseidon's body so densely that no skin could be seen anymore. The arrows did not possess any attack power, but they quickly started to form a chain of light-blue energy around Poseidon's body. Each arrow was a chain, so the number of arrows determined the number of chains, as well as the strength of the seal.

The chains in front of them had formed an impenetrable prison. Poseidon was frantically struggling, trying to release himself from the chains, but the restrictions of the seal caused him to be unable to use any of his strength.

The process was quite short, but Xiao Lin's lips were already trembling, his face shockingly pale. The life force that he had given was extremely shocking. Even though he did not know how much life span he had left, Xiao Lin could clearly feel that he would die soon. That was something that came from the weakness in his soul. He had already undone the Ruin state since he did not need to control anything anymore after the chains formed.

"At least we succeeded!" Xiao Lin let out a sigh of relief.

"Not yet!" Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue heard Silverlight's voice at the same time. It was thick and powerful. Silverlight had used some technique to transfer her voice to their ears.

"The sealing technique won't hold him for long. If we don't completely finish the seal by then, and Poseidon recovers his strength, it will all be for naught!"

The last step of the Shining Seal Technique: suppression.

Using their life force, the Shining Seal had suppressed Poseidon's strength to the lowest level, but it was impossible to rely on just them to maintain the energy needed to maintain such a seal. Even if they held on for a few more minutes, they would just die from the drain of the life force. Based on Silverlight's plan, they had planned on suppressing Poseidon in a volcano or under the sea. Fire and water were the two most natural energies on Earth, and volcanos and the bottom of the sea had the richest elements, which they could use to maintain the seal.

Volcanoes were nowhere to be found, but the sea was everywhere. Xiao Lin took a deep breath and started to use all his strength to control the light cage, planning on throwing it into the sea and sinking him to the sea bed. He cast a glance at Onyxia, who was close by. The struggling dragon looked at him with large and tired eyes. In his stupor, Xiao Lin seemed to hear the dragon thanking him.

A mishap happened right at that moment. As they prepared to enter the sea, the sealed Poseidon once again roared, and the quiet sea started to shake. Under the large ripples, a jet black object sped toward them.

Xiao Lin immediately reacted, shouting behind him, "Leave!"

The few of them were not slow, but the sealing had exhausted them and the object in the water was way too fast. By the time they flew back into the air, Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue had sustained various injuries. Xiao Lin was still fine—his constitution could take it—but Gu Xiaoyue was in bad shape.

Xiao Lin had actually been curious how Gu Xiaoyue did not seem to have any issues after the sealing. He knew that he had expended a lot of his life force earlier, and Gu Xiaoyue definitely did not have more life force than him, but now, the both of them were in bad shape.

Chapter 435 - Guardian

Chapter 435: Guardian

The creature suddenly burst out of the sea and into view. The monster looked like an octopus. It had a black, oval body that was the size of a few football fields. A grey eye the size of several footballs stared at Xiao Lin and the others in the air, its body surrounded by over a dozen toothy and clawed tentacles.

“Guardian!”

Silverlight did not even need to explain as Xiao Lin clenched his teeth and spat out the monster’s name. From his perspective, the Guardian in front of him looked almost identical to Gu Chengyun’s painting.

The Guardian never left Poseidon’s side. They had missed something critical. In all their plans on how to seal Poseidon, they had forgotten about his Guardians. Silverlight had said that the Guardians might not be at the level of Poseidon, but they were still at Epic-rank—definitely not an opponent they could face.

With the Guardian’s sudden attack, the tentacles that were filled with teeth merely brushed past Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, but half of Xiao Lin’s body was bleeding, though the pain was secondary. He still had the dragon’s blood recovery effect, but the numbness coming from his hand caused him to worry.

Gu Xiaoyue was in worse shape than he was. She merely reacted half a step slower, and failed to dodge completely. The tentacles had pierced through her left shoulder, only narrowly missing her heart!

Looking at Gu Xiaoyue coughing up blood in the air, Xiao Lin felt a pang in his heart, but there was nothing he could do at that moment. Controlling Poseidon’s cage away from the surface of the ocean, Xiao Lin could see from his higher vantage point that, in the nearby sea, there were more shadows speeding toward them.

Xiao Lin sucked in a cold breath, understanding that they no longer had a way to get to the bottom of the sea. Not only that, due to their rapidly declining states, the seal was starting to weaken, shortening the time the seal could be maintained.

Sensing their situation, Poseidon renewed his struggle. The cage woven by the arrows started to flicker. Silverlight started to tense up. She knew that Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue did not have much life force remaining. If they did not quickly suppress Poseidon in a safe place, everything they did earlier would be in vain.

Xiao Lin was also wracking his brain. The added burden on his body caused him to sweat. He bit into the wound on his lips, gathering up his spirit.

“The temple! That temple we came from!” Xiao Lin suddenly shouted, wincing as the wound stung. However, he quickly said, “Isn’t there a wormhole to Planet Norma there? Why don’t we just seal Poseidon in there?!”

Gu Xiaoyue and Silverlight jumped, but thinking about it, it was the only way they had at that moment. It was better than allowing Poseidon to take over Earth when he recovered. Silverlight might have been on Planet Norma for thousands of years, but her homeland was still Earth. She did not wish to see Earth meet disaster.

They brought Poseidon toward the temple. There was only a little time before Atlantis was completely sunk, and most of the mainland had already disappeared. As the temple was on the highest point, half of it was still above water, but any later and they would lose their chance.

Xiao Lin and the others took the chance to hurry over, failing to notice that the black dragon behind them had struggled and flown into the air, changing into human form before following them.

Moving past the half-submerged corridor and bringing Poseidon into the temple, the seawater had already washed away all the furniture around them. Now the question came: where was the wormhole to Planet Norma?

Everything in the small area could be seen at a glance, and there was nothing that could hide anything around them. Asking Silverlight yielded nothing either, so Xiao Lin started to panic. Poseidon seemed to sense something, and laughed coldly as he said a few words.

“What is he saying?” Xiao Lin looked over to Silverlight. He did not speak a lick of Atlantean.

“He said our seal has already failed. If we let him go, he will grant us a quick death.”

“Dream on!”

Before Xiao Lin could even retort, a loud bellow could be heard. A woman clad in black armor barged in like a meteor, her bright eyes filled with immense rage.

“Onyxia?” Xiao Lin shouted in Ancient Normese.

The familiar woman paused, measuring Xiao Lin before asking a string of questions in Ancient Normese. “You know me? No, you know this language! Who are you? Thank you for saving me, but strangely enough, I felt your presence, but could never see you. Where were you?”

Xiao Lin waved his hands, trying to answer, but he quickly started to cough. The numbing poison had already spread to various parts of his body. It was no longer just the pain.

“You’re poisoned? Are you really unable to resist that level of poison?” Onyxia furrowed her eyebrows. Her words contained no mocking, only curiosity. She had likely believed that anyone who could seal Poseidon would be a peak expert that would be able to withstand such a poison.

“Onyxia! Your blood could treat their injuries!” Silverlight said calmly.

“Oh? How are you still here?!” Onyxia narrowed her eyes, her killing intent rising. However, it immediately stopped. She could still understand what was important, and it was not the time to discuss grudges.

“Dragon’s blood?” Xiao Lin’s consciousness was beginning to fade. Thanks to the trauma from a certain logistics department head, he had a mental aversion to dragon’s blood.

However, Onyxia did not bother with him. Even a heavily-injured black dragon was not something that a Black-Iron ranked person could fight. Onyxia took out the armor on her shoulder, revealing patches of shocking injuries. It was only because of a dragon’s intense life force that he was still standing as if nothing had happened.

The wound was still bleeding, which made things easier. Onyxia thrust her white arm in front of Xiao Lin, and when she saw that he refused to open his mouth, Onyxia muttered something to herself before forcing his mouth open, sending a large amount of fresh blood into Xiao Lin’s mouth.

The recovery effect of dragon’s blood was very obvious. Xiao Lin immediately regained consciousness after a few mouthfuls. Onyxia then did the same for Gu Xiaoyue, stopping her bleeding. Even though Gu Xiaoyue still looked weak, she seemed fine for the time being.

“Are you all looking for something?” Onyxia ignored her arm, which was still bleeding, choosing to stare at Silverlight.

“The way back, that passage that brought you here. You should know where it is.”

The two of them looked at each other silently for a long time.

Chapter 436 - Return to Reality

Chapter 436: Return to Reality

After a moment, Onyxia let out a long snort, and asked warily, “What are you thinking of doing? Indeed, that wormhole is with me, but it has always belonged to me!”

Xiao Lin gradually woke and took a look around. Suddenly, he figured it out. Silverlight said that during the time of Atlantis, all wormholes leading to Planet Norma were sealed. Onyxia happened to accidentally fall into a wormhole that unexpectedly opened and arrived on Earth in this time period.

In this period, there was only one wormhole to Planet Norma, and that was the one that Onyxia took.

Xiao Lin did not waste time on idle talk, and asked earnestly, “In any case, please help us find that wormhole. Regardless of the grudge between you and Silverlight, we have a common enemy.”

Onyxia’s gaze once again fell onto Poseidon. With fiery eyes, she looked as if she was rearing to beat him to a pulp. However, this black dragon was sensible. It was obviously not the time to take revenge, and she also had concerns of her own.

Onyxia said, “I took a look at your seal earlier when I was out there. This planet is indeed quite magical. In my world, we have never even heard of this kind of theoretical seal technique. But, if you’re thinking of putting Poseidon in my world, you can forget it!”

“No! Not Planet Norma, but to exile him to the wormhole!” Xiao Lin thought of what Song Junlang once told him about wormholes, but he did not expect to actually put that knowledge to use. He explained hastily, “The wormhole is not stable. Unless you build a fixed fulcrum in the middle of it, I doubt getting to Planet Norma will be easy. There is a real possibility you will get completely lost in endless time and space.”

“Our seal on Poseidon will last for some time, and this time is enough to get him completely lost in the chaos. By the time the seal is released, he will never be able to find the exit!”

“So, we don’t need to worry about this guy harming Planet Norma,” Xiao Lin surmised confidently. There had never been any trace of Poseidon in all of Planet Norma’s history. This was proof enough that he had no way of getting to Planet Norma.

“We’re out of time!”

Poseidon’s struggles were getting increasingly violent. Onyxia thought of his earlier humiliation of her. She finally gritted her teeth and nodded her agreement. There was no time for them to slowly deliberate things.

Onyxia let the others withdraw, and then used Control on Poseidon to get him mid-air, in the center of the space. The Shining Arrows had now greatly dimmed compared to the beginning. Fortunately, there were enough arrows, thanks to Xiao Lin. The majority of the arrows were formed by Xiao Lin, and these arrows that were now of great assistance.

Onyxia pulled out the Silver Greatsword, which was one Xiao Lin had seen before. Even after thousands of years, this sword had not changed at all. Onyxia waved it toward the void, and the fabric of space was suddenly torn open. She then reached out into the tear, fiddled around, and pulled out an object.

Both Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue’s eyes went wide when they saw the object.

It was that mysterious sphere that contained a replica of the solar system. Onyxia grunted. “This was originally taken from your planet’s royal treasury as my compensation. I’ll return it to you!”

The large sphere was placed in the center. Onyxia’s dragon powers were barely able to transport the sphere toward the centermost object that represented the sun. Golden sands of time spilled out from the inside, and the wormhole was finally opened again.

Xiao Lin's expression turned a little strange. Now that things have developed, he felt a little unsure. As he pondered, Onyxia's urging sounds could be heard. It was simply not the time to think about other matters.

Poseidon, who was locked within a cage of shining brilliance, was forcibly stuffed into the wormhole. The entrance may have been small, but the sheer absorption power was unimaginable. Like light seeping into a black hole, Poseidon's body became continuously deformed and distorted, and then he gradually disappeared into the wormhole.

"It's over!"

Xiao Lin finally let out a long breath of relief as he no longer needed to maintain the seal. As Poseidon disappeared, the light-formed connecting line on his chest also disappeared. Xiao Lin slumped to sit down, but the main hall was already covered with seawater, which was a concerning matter. If the sphere drifted out into the sea, there was no way of telling if somebody might find it and accidentally release Poseidon. That would be a disaster.

"Allow me!"

Onyxia took charge and said, "Leave this matter to me. I need to stay here for a while anyway. I will deal with this hall."

"You still don't want to leave!" Silverlight said, glaring.

"Hmph! Did you not hear him earlier? It is easy to get lost in the wormhole. I'm not going in before my strength is fully restored. What if I accidentally get lost? Am I to be with that d*mned Poseidon forever!"

Onyxia replied without hesitation, "What about you all, then? Your people probably have yet to completely disappear. Do you need me to send you all there?"

Silverlight's gaze suddenly shone with lively energy, and she hastily said, "Did you-did you just say that our people have yet to disappear completely?"

"Hmph. As a princess, don't you know this? Your king had secretly transferred some people to a safe location ahead of time. He probably anticipated this to happen."

Silverlight's eyes became a little moist. She sniffed and sobbed a whisper, "I thought I was the last one. I didn't think that there are still survivors on Earth! This is splendid, just splendid!"

Silverlight looked very excited. It was the first time she expressed such emotion ever since Xiao Lin met her. Xiao Lin felt a little sympathy for her. He could hardly imagine experiencing the destruction of an entire country to the point that every person in her clan was extinct. What was left must be the feeling of being totally alone. It was not a good feeling.

Xiao Lin sighed. He wanted to comfort the poor woman, but realized that the surrounding light suddenly became blurry. Colorful light burst out of nowhere, and his head started to become dizzy until he once again lost consciousness.

...

When Xiao Lin suddenly popped his eyes open, he found himself lying in the main hall. However, there was no freezing water, only the cold hard floor. It was an empty hall with the spheres placed in it.

He was back. Xiao Lin had walked the corridor of time and was once again back to the era that truly belonged to him. It was as if he woke up from a very long dream. As he tried to recall the details of all that had transpired, it all felt a little unreal, but the scars on his body were clearly there.

“Silverlight! Silverlight! Xiao Lin, come quick and see!” Gu Xiaoyue’s voice snapped him out of his stupor.

Chapter 437 - Silverlight’s Anomaly

Chapter 437: Silverlight’s Anomaly

When Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue woke up from their coma, Silverlight was still lying on the ground. At first, Gu Xiaoyue did not pay her any mind. The aftereffects of Rewind were obvious, and there was clear discomfort in their bodies after waking up.

However, when ten minutes had passed and Silverlight did not show any signs of waking up, Gu Xiaoyue started to feel that something was amiss. She walked over to feel her forehead, and her expression transformed. She immediately called Xiao Lin over.

Silverlight’s state looked very strange, and Xiao Lin gently touched her arm. The physical contact allowed him to confirm that, at that moment, Silverlight had not returned to the state of a soul. Silverlight’s eyes were closed calmly, her face frighteningly pale. Her exposed skin had also become wrinkled, akin to an elderly of the age of 70 or 80. Silverlight had been able to maintain a young woman’s appearance and attitude for millions of years.

What shocked Xiao Lin the most was that Silverlight’s entire body was ice-cold, like ice cubes freshly removed from a freezing cellar. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, who stood beside her, could not help but shiver.

“She can’t be dead, right?” Gu Xiaoyue said hesitantly. They looked at each other, neither knowing what to say.

It appeared to be a dead body no matter how one looked at it. The problem was that Silverlight was not a living person to begin with. Although Xiao Lin had no idea what technique this woman used to be able to freely switch between her real body and soul form, there was no doubt. Silverlight said it herself: she was already dead. It was impossible for any ordinary human being to be able to live for so long—for millions of years.

They both seemed helpless. After thinking for a long time, they decided to first take Silverlight away from the ocean floor. While preparing to carry Silverlight’s body, Xiao Lin suddenly noticed that the third eye on the woman’s forehead had opened again. At that moment, when Xiao Lin’s eyes locked onto it, he felt the sky spin again and he fainted.

When Xiao Lin opened his eyes, he found himself in a bizarre world. It was an otherworldly beautiful garden with various flora and fauna around him. The sound of birds could be heard among the fragrant flowers, amidst the lush green grass, and gurgling stream. It was beautiful beyond comparison. Xiao Lin looked around in dazed confusion and found a figure that looked like Silverlight sitting on a bench not far from him. She looked sideways, as if she was enjoying the scenery.

Xiao Lin shouted as he walked over at a quickened pace, “Silverlight! Is that you? Where in the world are we? Don’t tell me your Rewind reactivated again.”

Silverlight turned her head. Xiao Lin immediately stopped as he took a clear look at her face, almost toppling over. Frantically finding his balance again, Xiao Lin was dumbfounded. “Who are you?”

Sat in front of him was a very old lady. The wrinkles on her face were comparable to the creases on the bark of century-old trees. Under her long white dress was not silky, plump skin but limbs as skinny as twigs. Apart from the vague similarity in her charm and dress, there was nothing else that resembled Silverlight.

However, the old woman sighed heavily and said, “You’re not wrong. I am Silverlight.”

Her voice was cool and light, as it always had been, and Xiao Lin was convinced. Xiao Lin had a vague idea, but he was still unsure. He hesitated and asked, “Why do you look like this?”

The old woman smiled lightly. Silverlight always wore a long sullen face as a young lady. Yet, in this old aged look, her smile came so softly and naturally.

“This is actually how I really look. If a woman lived for ten million years, would you expect her to look young? What you saw was just a secret technique of the royal family, by giving up the body as storage for my life force. I told you that my current state is very strange. That’s roughly how it is. I am now a living person in the state of death.”

Seeing as Xiao Lin displayed no signs of comprehension, Silverlight shook her head and laughed. “Forget it, you would understand it if you spent a few years in the study of Necromancy. However, I will become an actual dead person soon.”

Xiao Lin’s heart sank. What he was worried about was happening. Frowning, he asked, “Why? Is this the price you have to pay for casting Rewind? Or did you use up all your stored life force when you sealed Poseidon earlier?”

“Those two indeed play a part, but they were not the main cause.” Silverlight thought for a moment, then slowly said, “The secret technique that I use can indeed make me live for almost all eternity. However, there is no true eternity in the world. Even if what happened today did not happen, I would be able to exist for another 100 years at most. After that, I will just die, and that would be true death. Not even my soul will remain then.”

“No wonder!” Xiao Lin was a little surprised. “Gu Xiaoyue doesn’t seem to have any signs of exhaustion on her vitality. It was because you were helping shoulder some of her loss of vitality, right?”

Silverlight nodded. “That girl is very special; she’s interesting. Unfortunately, time is running out...”

Facing the inevitability of death, Silverlight appeared very calm. Xiao Lin did not know what to say. She was actually a very pitiful woman. A lifespan of ten million years seemed eternal, but it was actually long-drawn suffering for Silverlight. She shouldered so much burden, resentment, and pain, like the demise of her country and the death of her relatives. No ordinary person can easily live through this experience.

“I’m sorry.” In the end, Xiao Lin could only utter these two words to express how he felt. He was grateful to Silverlight. No matter her motivations, Silverlight had saved Gu Xiaoyue’s life.

“No, I’m the one who should apologize. Please forgive me, Xiao Lin.” Silverlight raised her head. Her old but clear bright eyes looked toward Xiao Lin.

“It’s okay. Uh, no, I mean, I don’t understand what you’re talking about.” Xiao Lin was a little confused.

Silverlight let out a guilty sigh and lowered her head again. She pondered for a long while before saying, “I used you. Actually, I already knew that the wall of time would be broken. Yet, I still brought both of you into the corridor of time, and I never thought to stop you. Although I had no way of anticipating the things that happened later and their consequences... Anyway, I am very sorry.”

Xiao Lin felt his brain start to overload. He rubbed his temples with his knuckles, then waved his hands and said, “Hold on, I remember you told me that the wall of time is an indestructible existence. Even if people with legendary powers come along, they would not be able to break it. So, you lied to me?”

“No, I wasn’t lying about that. Time and space are both so-called forbidden areas for human beings. If they can be so easily destroyed, then this world–no, this universe–is in chaos.” The corner of Silverlight’s lips curled in a small smile.

Xiao Lin threw open his hands in helplessness and said, “You also knew that I was just a new student that had been freshly enrolled for a few months. I didn’t know much about time and space. If the wall of time is a forbidden zone, why was it suddenly breached today? Did you anticipate this?”

“It was not a matter of anticipation, but I knew for sure that something like this would happen.”

“Why?”

“Because of you!”

The conversation came to an abrupt stop at this moment. The two looked at each other. Silverlight’s eyes were calm, and Xiao Lin’s were puzzled.

Chapter 438 - Parting

Chapter 438: Parting

After a long pause, Silverlight said slowly, “Xiao Lin, you are special. You are different.”

“Uh, if you are thinking about discussing philosophy, I think you might have found the wrong person.”

“No, your specialty lies not in philosophy or in your intuition. You are different. I probably told you before that we royal family members have special abilities in our mind’s eye. One of my special abilities is Truth. I can see anybody’s truth, but you are the only one who I am not able to glean. I was very surprised when I first met you. I never expected to be able to meet such a person again.”

“Again?” Xiao Lin caught Silverlight’s choice of words, and he became more confused. “Hold on. You said that I’m special. What’s special about me? I don’t think that I am very handsome. Uh fine, fine, I’ll stop joking. So tell me, who was this other person whose truth you weren’t able to see through?”

“I don’t know. We were fated to only have a brief encounter. It was about a hundred years before I met you. He was also passing by Silverlight Lake. However, my Control had no effect on him. He didn’t plan to do anything to me. All he did was to greet me before departing.” Silverlight frowned as she recalled the memory. Then, with a wave of her hand, a curtain of water rose from the ground. A young man’s face could clearly be seen in the water.

“Ivanovich?” Xiao Lin was taken aback slightly but immediately felt relief. He had met Ivan’s residual memory fragments in his dreams, and he also knew how Ivan looked when he was young, so he recognized him in an instant. If it were him, he basically understood what Silverlight meant by his specialty.

“I understand a little now. But, is this related to the wall of time?”

“Do you know what we called humans like you two back in our time?” The elderly Silverlight seemed to have completely returned to the nature of a mischievous girl. Once again, looking slyly at Xiao Lin, she laughed and answered her own question, “Non-humans!”

“Huh? I am only a talent user.”

“Talent depends on a person’s blood lineage and genes. However, your talent is not as simple as genetics. Its source is the soul itself. Do you understand what I mean? There can be countless genetic talent users, but soul talent users are a rare find throughout the entirety of human history.”

Silverlight pursed her lower lip, seeming a little distressed about how to properly explain the matter. She finally sighed and said, “I have only seen descriptions of the soul talent users in very few books. Soul talent users are special. They possess unparalleled abilities, far surpassing the abilities of any other talented person. However, this also comes at a price. The excessively strong abilities of soul talent users would cause them to be rejected by the law. As their powers grow stronger, the strength of repulsion will also increase. The wall of time is an object that is a condensation of the law. It may be immune to damage from all physical spells, but it is not immune to the law itself.”

“So you are saying that I am actually a bomb. If I get close to the wall of time, I will cause the wall of time to shatter?” Xiao Lin laughed bitterly. This was not a good effect.

“Not quite.”

“Huh?”

Silverlight was a little ashamed. “It is because the wall of time was damaged before. When Poseidon finally called upon the powers of Heaven and Earth to destroy my homeland, it actually caused significant damage to the wall of time. You happened to be the last straw that broke the camel’s back. So, I apologize.”

Xiao Lin did not actually mean to put the blame on her. He was quickly able to guess Silverlight’s thoughts and asked, “You want to go back and have a look, right?”

“Yes. I may have an endless life on Planet Norma, but that does not make me happy at all. I was missing Earth all the time, missing those dear to me. At first, I thought that I would never go back to my old life, but you showed me hope.”

“So, from then on, you were actually trying to set me up? You had always planned on following me from the start to pass over to Earth. Thereafter, you looked for an opportunity to find the ruins of Atlantis, cast the Time Rewind spell to get me into the corridor of time, to finally break the wall of time, and get back to your home?”

Silverlight did not deny this. She paused for a moment before adding, “At first, I wanted to just cross over, and then send you all back, leaving myself to get lost in the endless corridor of time and space. However, everything that transpired later, I did not expect at all.”

Xiao Lin’s mouth was agape. He ought to be furious for being used by someone else, but he just could not get angry. Especially before the face of Silverlight at this moment, he did not know what to say.

Silverlight’s initiative actually caused Xiao Lin a lot of trouble. Facing an opponent of Poseidon’s level was no joke. The final result was also decent, as Poseidon was successfully sealed. Xiao Lin then waved his hand in a dramatic fashion. “You don’t have to mention things that have passed, Silverlight. Is there really no way to keep you alive?”

Silverlight seemed a little surprised, but also looked reassured. She shook her head gently and said, “The law of life cannot be violated. I’m glad you said that. You know, earlier, when Onyxia told me that there were survivors from my race, I was really happy.”

The concept of race was very peculiar. People did not seem to care about their race at all in normal times, but when a race was really on the verge of extinction, the attachment to one’s race suddenly became very intense.

The faint sense of loneliness that hung around Silverlight had actually disappeared. Hearing her talk about this topic once again, Xiao Lin was taken aback. He suddenly understood. With a sense of bittersweetness, he said, “If there were really survivors of the Atlantis race from that time, then they should be the firestarter to light the torch of the continuation of human civilization.

Reproduction and development will carry on for generations... If that's the case, some of my distant ancestors may actually be your old acquaintances?"

Silverlight could not help but laugh. After laughing, she tilted her head and thought out loud, "So, I could be your ancestor. Then, as a reward for your effort in these times, and as an advanced compensation, I will give you two things.

"The first being that I am leaving Big Bai in your care. When you return from my spiritual world, you will find this stone on me. Summoning Big Bai consumes some mental strength. The little guy is amazing, and I believe it will be helpful to you."

Seeing Silverlight's determined look, Xiao Lin could only nod with a little sadness.

"As for the other one..." Silverlight suddenly stood up and walked toward him mid-sentence, pointed her finger, and pressed it on Xiao Lin's forehead.

Suddenly, Xiao Lin felt a sharp pain spread from his brain to the whole of his body. It was the kind of pain that went straight into his bones and almost made him faint on the spot. Xiao Lin panted as he waited for the pain to subside. Astonished, he was about to question Silverlight when he felt a strange sensation. He subconsciously reached out and touched his forehead. There was an ovular bump on his forehead where it was once smooth. Looking at Silverlight, there was now nothing left on the old woman's forehead.

Chapter 439 - Gone

Chapter 439: Gone

"This is for you," Silverlight said with a smile. "This is the only evidence of our Atlantean royal blood. Ordinary people may not be able to perfectly merge with the eye, but it shouldn't be a problem for you. Truth is the base ability of my mind's eye. As for Time Rewind, don't use it lightly unless it is a last resort. It is too high a price to pay. However, you wouldn't be able to use it for the time being... Anyway, this is my final gift to you.

"Oh, right. About the sudden changes of weather on this planet, I understand it now ever since arriving at this ruin. It must be caused by Poseidon's aura. I don't know why this wormhole was activated again, causing Poseidon's aura to leak and awakening the sleeping Guardian."

"Is Poseidon able to get back?" Xiao Lin asked hastily.

"Rest assured. Although he is called the Sea God, he is not actually a true god. It is impossible to leave the chaos of time and space. He is already at his limit by spreading his aura here. When you get back, all you have to do is sprinkle the ashes of my remains after I am gone on that sphere, and you will be able to seal the entrance once again."

After saying these words, her figure gradually became blurry. The surrounding light also rapidly dimmed and darkened. Silverlight seemed to have a lot more left to say, but in the end, she gave her final blessing with a smile. It was a blessing for Xiao Lin, or a blessing for humanity.

When Xiao Lin opened his eyes, he was back at the ruins. Gu Xiaoyue was anxiously waiting beside him, and when Xiao Lin came to, she immediately said, "Silverlight, she..."

Silverlight's body was quickly aging on the ground until there was only a pile of black powder left. It spread all over the ground. Xiao Lin watched it all happen quietly, and in the end, he whispered, "Farewell! Thank you!"

"Is she-is she dead?" Gu Xiaoyue asked in a soft voice.

"Yes, and it is a true death this time. Even her soul is completely gone. She will never come back." Xiao Lin sighed.

Gu Xiaoyue did not have much affection for Silverlight, but still, she wore a look of anguish and said softly, "She might be the last Atlantean. If that is true, the Atlantean race is truly extinct."

"No, the Atlanteans are not extinct!" Xiao Lin slowly said, "In the Time Rewind, that black dragon said that there were human survivors at that time. So, we are actually descendants of those survivors. There was never a gap in the continuity of human civilization!"

"So that's why she was able to leave in peace." Gu Xiaoyue was thoughtful. Although she did not enter Silverlight's dream world, she understood when she saw the smile on Silverlight's face in her final moments.

"What do we do with this sphere?"

"Poseidon is still exiled in the endless wormhole of time. We finally sealed the guy, and we can never let him come out to harm humans again. So, let's sink this entrance to the bottom of the sea!"

After a pause, Xiao Lin sullenly said, "Let this ruin be Silverlight's final resting place. This may be the only remains of Atlantis that are still intact left in the world."

Following Silverlight's instructions, Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue carried the ashes away from the flood, and carefully sprinkled them over the sphere that simulated the solar system. Mysteriously, as the ashes fell onto the sphere, the black ashes immediately exuded shining sparkles, like rays of starlight, swirling as they descended. It was beautiful.

When the ashes were dispersed, Xiao Lin noticed that the sphere that represented the planet started to spin slower and slower until it stopped moving completely. The fiery red sphere in the center that represented the sun dimmed rapidly. It was like an extinguishing flame, no longer emitting any light or heat.

At the same time, Xiao Lin sensed Poseidon's aura starting to dissipate from the ruins. It was as Silverlight said; the entrance was sealed once again.

"I think I understand now. This is probably similar to magic circles. Each sphere is placed in perfect precision of position and velocity. It is used to support the central wormhole with continuous energy," Gu Xiaoyue said, but immediately frowned and continued, "But it is strange. If we follow this theory, this energy support should be used to prevent the opening of the wormhole. Why would it be reopened?"

“Forget it. Let’s go back first.”

“Let’s do that.”

Xiao Lin gave the ruins a final glance before resolutely turning and leaving. At the gap that was knocked open, Big Bai was still loyally blocking the seawater with his soft body. He probably did not know of the passing of his master. Xiao Lin sighed again.

How could he communicate with Big Bai?

Xiao Lin touched the stone that Silverlight had given to him. Unexpectedly, Big Bai seemed to understand his thoughts. Big Bai considerably stuck out a long, tongue-like strap, forming a staircase from the corridor to the gap.

Big Bai seemed to have a high level of intelligence!

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue followed it and returned to Big Bai’s belly. When Big Bai’s body left the gap, they began to float upward rapidly. Through the dim light, Xiao Lin watched as the turbulent seawater poured into the ruins, until all that was left to be seen was the darkness of the deep sea once again.

“Are we going back to Hawaii?” Gu Xiaoyue asked.

Xiao Lin thought for a moment, then shouted, “Big Bai! Can you send us somewhere else? Say, the coastal areas of China. Uh, just, far away from here.”

‘Wuu, wuu...’

Big Bai let out a deep cry. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue looked at each other. After some time, Xiao Lin coughed dryly, “If you can, make a sound. If you can’t, then do it twice.”

Silverlight probably did not consider communication issues. Even if Big Bai was a highly intelligent creature, this was still a big obstacle between it and Xiao Lin. However, it could still understand simple terms, and let out a short cry.

Xiao Lin was relieved at this. If they went back to Hawaii now, not only might they bump into people from other academies, they might even bump into a Guardian of the Sea God. He did not want to get involved in the battle. There were no operational ships or planes in Hawaii at the moment. It would be better to take this convenient ‘submarine’ directly back to their country.

After that, it was a long journey under the sea. Every once in a while, Big Bai would cleverly float back up to the surface, allowing Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue to come out and breathe. It also restored the air reserves in its body.

As Poseidon’s aura dissipated, schools of fish began to emerge once again. Big Bai would sometimes playfully chase the schools of fish, and would even easily catch a few and swallow them whole. The fish would plop down in front of Xiao Lin, leaving him dumbfounded. He could not eat the raw fish, but still, he expressed his gratitude to Big Bai.

Chapter 440 - Ruins Report

Chapter 440: Ruins Report

The rainstorms in the Pacific Rim had gradually stopped. Halfway through their journey, the dark clouds had also dissipated completely, revealing clear skies and an emerald-blue ocean that was a joy to behold. If not for the fear of being spotted by passing ships, Xiao Lin would even ask Big Bai to just travel along the surface.

During that time, Xiao Lin did not stay idle. He experimented and tried various methods to try to communicate with Big Bai. Communicating with a highly intelligent creature was easier than expected, and it had already gained a general understanding of some basic common Chinese phrases.

The whole time, Xiao Lin observed this strange man-made organism. In the sea, Big Bai maintained an appearance of a flatfish, and its magical body seemed to be able to transform according to its own whims. After grasping this general rule, Xiao Lin even had Big Bai transform into a giant bird, soaring into the clouds.

However, they were likely to draw more attention by flying in the sky. After experiencing the thrill of flying, he had Big Bai return to fish form and back under the ocean surface.

Big Bai was very fast, surpassing almost any large ship on Earth. In less than two days, they were able to see the contour of the shoreline. Gu Xiaoyue's expression became tangled. With Poseidon's matter resolved, what short holiday they had was even shorter now.

Xiao Lin was actually a little depressed. What was supposed to be a good holiday had turned into this. However, Gu Xiaoyue was even more depressed, as Gu Chengyun's enrollment was around the corner. She definitely did not want her sister to also enroll into Dawn Academy.

"Relax, with Poseidon's matter resolved now, Department Head Song will probably be back soon. I will speak to him to find a way. He has friends in high places!" Xiao Lin said seriously while having slightly mixed feelings. It was pretty convenient to say that Department Head Song had powerful friends.

"Hope so." Gu Xiaoyue was worried, but she did not want to talk.

Worried that people might spot them, they chose to quietly get onshore during the sunset. After going ashore, with a burst of light, Big Bai burrowed into the stone that Silverlight gave him. The stone was unusual, and Silverlight had repeatedly told him that he could not lose the stone. One could say that the stone was Big Bai's core. Losing the stone would mean losing Big Bai.

Air traffic in various parts of the country quickly returned to normal now that the rainstorm had ceased, and they boarded the later flight home. The two were extremely exhausted, but Xiao Lin did not have much sleep along the way.

Xiao Lin was actually curious about how this whole incident would affect Earth, or how the governments of the world would think about it. The Academy and Planet Norma had always been

kept secret. No Academy would allow government forces to intervene. However, with this huge commotion, how would it end?

To Xiao Lin, the Poseidon incident would end here, but to the Academy, there were considerable repercussions that they would have to deal with.

Before he boarded the plane, he phoned Earth Division's Mao Tianying. Mao Tianying expressed his surprise when he found out Xiao Lin was still on Earth, and he complained that he should come back to the Academy immediately. The student union seemed to also be looking for him.

Xiao Lin took the initiative to reveal everything that happened under the sea. He also enquired about the Pacific Ocean matter. Mao Tianying did not try to hide the subject. Actually, there was nothing to say. Likely when people from various academies arrived at Hawaiian islands, they found monsters hiding under the sea. Thereafter, a fierce battle ensued.

Those monsters were Poseidon's Guardians. Although the perennial sleep had caused their strength to drastically decline, only Silver-ranked soldiers could be dispatched from the Academy to Earth. Therefore, the battle was brutal and casualties were heavy. Of course, under the influence of the law of resurrection, they merely lost their lives.

In the end, naturally, the elites from Colonial Academy emerged victorious, and the monsters were dismantled by them. Each academy brought pieces of the monster corpses back for further study. Reportedly, senior management of the Academy was surprised by the appearance of such monsters on Earth, and therefore, it had to be investigated till the end. Dawn Academy's researcher on the monster corpse was obviously Song Junlang.

There was not much useful info from Mao Tianying. However, Xiao Lin was happy. Due to the monster incident on Earth, the special enrollment plan that was originally planned by the Admissions Department seemed to have been shelved. The Academy needed to concentrate all its resources to deal with the monster matter.

After hanging up the phone, Xiao Lin told Gu Xiaoyue the good news, but he did not elicit much response from her. Being temporarily stranded would mean that Gu Chengyun's recruitment would be reconsidered in the future. However, they had plenty of time, and Xiao Lin swore that he would definitely help resolve this matter.

Mao Tianying repeatedly pestered Xiao Lin to return to school. Xiao Lin also did not wish to be investigated by those other academies who were still on Earth. He said goodbye to Gu Xiaoyue at the airport. Xiao Lin wanted to go home for a short while before going to the school directly.

After returning home, his mother began to ask all sorts of questions about Gu Xiaoyue, and Xiao Lin could only give her a wry smile. He wished to explain, but he was about to set off again, and he did not want his mother to worry. Xiao Lin bit the bullet and just nodded yes to all of his mother's instructions.

The thought of parting in his heart caused him to talk at length with his parents that night. He could not tell them where he was going, nor did he know when he could return. He might not ever return again.

Xiao Lin sighed deeply in his heart. He could not help but wonder how the pioneers of the New World could choose between Earth and Planet Norma.

After eating breakfast the next morning, Xiao Lin packed his things and was prepared to leave when he suddenly received a call from Gu Xiaoyue. He answered the call feeling surprised, even a little happy. He was about to crack some jokes, but Gu Xiaoyue cut him off in an urgent tone, saying, “The papers! Did you read today’s newspapers?”

“Huh? What newspapers?” Xiao Lin asked casually.

“Hurry and go see!” Gu Xiaoyue’s tone was very strange and it was hard to decipher.

Xiao Lin became curious and laughed, “Okay, okay. Don’t hang up, I’ll go look now. Hmm, let me think, where did I put the newspapers.”

Xiao Lin’s family had always subscribed to newspapers, and that day’s newspapers were flopped open on the table. The first thing that caught his eye were bold black characters on the front page headlines: ‘Appearance of Remnants of a Legendary Civilization!’

Xiao Lin was paying attention now, and he started reading attentively.

The report was eloquently written, and it filled the whole page. The opening paragraph was an introduction and lore of the Atlantean Civilization. Skipping past this useless information, the second half of the report was heavy news.

It was reported that, after the rainstorm the day before, officials were investigating near the Pacific Ocean. They found a large number of what was suspected to be remains of floating ancient cultural relics. After the relics were salvaged and examined through radiocarbon dating, it was found that the age of those relics coincided with the legendary age of Atlantis.

According to archaeologists, this discovery was sufficient evidence to prove the existence of Atlantis.

Chapter 441 - Time Paradox

Chapter 441: Time Paradox

All this time, archaeologists had not given up on searching for evidence of the existence of the legendary lost civilization of Atlantis. The debris found in the Pacific Ocean had obviously shocked the world.

Xiao Lin was a little confused. He raised his phone again and said, “Debris? Could it be the ruins we were in at that time? Well, it’s possible. I remember that when I entered, there were indeed many artifacts and slabs with engravings of various characters. Now that the ruins have collapsed under the water, it is understandable that some things now float to the surface-”

“No, I’m not talking about that!” Gu Xiaoyue’s tone was very strange, and once again she interrupted Xiao Lin urgently, ” Look at the second addition! The second addition of the paper!”

“Uh.”

Xiao Lin flipped open the newspaper and discovered that they had used two pages to cover the topic. The second part reported on the various expert analyses on the discovered debris. High-definition color photos of the debris were also published in the newspaper. It was as Xiao Lin had expected. From the looks of it, it did belong to the temple ruins.

“It does appear so. It might not be the hall that we went to, but it’s probably the site where Atlantis sank back then. There must be some relics in the vicinity that have survived the ages. That’s not surprising,” Xiao Lin said.

“The contents!” Gu Xiaoyue said anxiously. “Look at the contents of those photos!”

She meant the photos of the artifacts. It was not known what materials were used on the murals, but there were few signs of corrosion despite thousands of years of being under the sea. Although they were a little blurry, the outlines could still be clearly identified.

Xiao Lin squinted and looked carefully, and after a few minutes, his expression started to change. His phone fell from his hand to the ground with a loud clang. He was dumbfounded, and mumbled, “It can’t be! That’s impossible!”

Although the murals were sporadic, what was engraved on them could clearly be seen. There was a man equipped with armor floating in the center. On his body was something similar to a cage. There were three people around him, and it was obvious that two of them were female and the other was male.

On another engraving, a huge dragon was hovering in the air, with dozens of humans kneeling on the ground. Then, they began to carve these murals under the order of the black dragon and also built a new temple. In the end, the black dragon disappeared from the temple.

Xiao Lin was speechless for a long time. He picked up the phone as urgent sounds started to come from it, and said bitterly, “It’s a coincidence? It must be a coincidence. How is this possible?”

“The authenticity of the murals have been verified. Chronologically, it is from tens of thousands of years ago, just about in line with the end of Atlantis.” Gu Xiaoyue was calm.

“These drawings are scenes of us when we sealed Poseidon? It seems like the black dragon asked the surviving humans to record this. But... But...” Xiao Lin did not know what to say. The debris originated from tens of thousands of years ago. Why would they appear on them?

Gu Xiaoyue was silent for a moment, then asked softly, “Xiao Lin, did we change the course of history?”

Xiao Lin was having a slight headache. He thought for a moment and said, “When we broke the wall of time and entered Atlantis, history must have already changed. However, we still sealed Poseidon, saved Onyxia and the last surviving humans. So, history must have reverted to its normal course. Our ability to return to modern society is the best proof of this.”

“Say, if we didn’t act back then, if we didn’t seal Poseidon and didn’t break the wall of time, what would have happened?”

Xiao Lin was stupefied again.

Back then, Onyxia was on the verge of death, and Atlantis had sunk. Although there were surviving humans, if Poseidon wanted to turn the world into an ocean, any surviving humans would be forced into slavery. The entire Earth will become his playground, and it would be the end of the human race.

According to what Silverlight had told them, at that time, several brave men learned the Shining Seal Technique and planned to seal Poseidon at the cost of their life. Silverlight went to Planet Norma quickly and was not able to witness the result of the final seal. However, in all of history, there had never been a character like Poseidon, so they took it for granted and assumed the seal was successful.

In fact, the whole time when they were in the corridor of time, they had not seen anyone else coming. If they left it unattended, would Poseidon really have been sealed?

Xiao Lin now understood what Gu Xiaoyue was trying to tell him. Even though he could hardly believe it, or found it difficult to accept, he still smiled bitterly and said, “Do you think that we are part of the real history? In real history, it was us who sealed Poseidon, which allowed human civilization to re-emerge? In other words, you and I had always been and had become saviors of mankind?”

The half-ridiculous bad joke in his last sentence did not make Gu Xiaoyue laugh. She was a little confused and said, “I don’t know. If this is true, then, what was the original history? In a history without us crossing the corridor of time, what truly happened then? Could it be said that before this, everything we did was destined?”

This was the reason Gu Xiaoyue felt confused. If people were told that everything they did was preordained, it would cause anyone to break down.

Xiao Lin had no way of answering this question. Even if Silverlight were here, she would not be able to answer it. It was like whether the chicken or egg came first—a time paradox. Xiao Lin did not know how to explain.

“At least we are still alive, and the human race still exists!” Feeling the helplessness of the girl on the other end of the phone line, Xiao Lin mellowed his tone and said, “Regardless of the truth of history, history is history. It has already happened, and will not be repeated, so don’t think about it too much. We still create our own futures!”

“Yes, I know. It’s just hard to accept for the time being.” Gu Xiaoyue let out a sigh.

Xiao Lin knew that she needed some time to ease her emotions, so he let her be. After hanging up, he read the article carefully. Based on the contents of the murals, experts had begun to make various guesses about the Atlantis of that time. Xiao Lin found it very interesting to read this news as a witness of history.

Although Gu Xiaoyue felt tangled inside by the relationship between the past and the present, Xiao Lin was open about it. The past was history, after all. This episode did not have much impact on him. He soon packed his luggage and embarked on the journey back to school.

Almost at the same time, in the office of the Earth Division, Wang Yuelan was looking at rows and rows of forms on her computer screen. She muttered in shock, “Impossible! This is impossible!”

Chapter 442 - Wan Yuelan’s Doubts

Chapter 442: Wan Yuelan’s Doubts

After bidding farewell to his family, Xiao Lin flew straight to the city where the Earth Division was situated, and he saw Mao Tianying at the airport. This man had been waiting with his car, ready for a long time, and enthusiastically helped Xiao Lin with his luggage. In fact, Xiao Lin did not have much baggage to begin with.

After raising some queries while on the road, Xiao Lin found out that he was the last freshman to return to school. The student union had repeatedly sent people to press on the matter. The student council president had also stepped in to defend him, lest his credits be deducted for his postponement of returning to school.

Gu Xiaoyue had already left some time ago and did not choose to travel with Xiao Lin. Xiao Lin felt some regret at this, as he still had many things to say to her.

Mao Tianying seemed to have thought of something and suddenly said, “Oh yes, Wang Yuelan is waiting for you at the division. She will probably take the same transport back with you.”

“Wang Yuelan hasn’t returned yet?”

“Didn’t you know that she’s from the student union? By entering the student union, a person gains a lot of authority. They have the freedom to adjust their course schedule, free access to Earth, and so on. Do you know her?”

The two of them chatted the whole way, and soon the topic turned to the Pacific incident.

Mao Tianying’s authority may not have been great, but as the person in charge of liaison between Earth and Dawn Academy, he was privy to a lot of information. He also revealed more of the so-called inside information to Xiao Lin.

For instance, how it was determined that the debris collected on the ocean belonged to the Atlantean era. It was actually determined by the Judge Academy. The reason why many academies paid so much attention to the incident was not only to research the truth behind the mysterious monsters, but also due to the mystery of the Atlantean civilization.

In addition, the academy had gotten hold of many relics, and discreetly brought them back to the academy. Those that left Earth were actually worthless to them and were abandoned by them.

As for the battle with the Guardian of the Sea God in the Pacific Ocean, there were not many witnesses due to the terrible weather. The few local witnesses were basically ‘properly handled’. Xiao Lin wisely chose not to delve into the details on how they were being handled.

Even so, the government on Earth still vaguely received traces and clues through certain channels. Although all academies had done a good job of hiding information in the area, there were always things they did not foresee. Coupled with the sudden nature of the incident, there were definitely traces left behind. Of course, they could not treat the government’s handling as casually as how they handled individuals, and the academies attached great importance to this. After some time, the deans even had to go to the Supreme Council to make a ruling on the matter.

The final results were not something that they would be able to know.

In the end, the incident did not have much impact on Earth under the deliberate concealment and cover-up of many of the incident’s aspects. After the torrential rain had passed, people simply resumed their normal lives.

However, the people who came to investigate were puzzled. The torrential rain at that time was very strange, and they also felt a very strong aura, only for it to disappear suddenly. The only thing they could do was crack their heads on these mysteries moving forward.

Xiao Lin listened intently, and from time to time, he cooperated by expressing his surprises. It looked as if he had nothing to do with the matter, and Mao Tianying never had the slightest suspicion. Although Xiao Lin lost contact during that time, he was only a new student with a Black Iron-rank. He did not think that Xiao Lin had the ability to get involved.

The observatory was located in a very remote area, and it was inaccessible to normal people. Although this was done deliberately so the Earth Division was not disturbed, Mao Tianying repeatedly complained about the desolation around him. He had to drive for several hours just to purchase a pack of cigarettes.

When they arrived at the observatory atop of the mountains, Xiao Lin wanted to take a break and have a drink. He opened the office door and found Wang Yuelan sitting behind the table. The room smelled thick with coffee, and it seemed like she had been waiting there for a long time.

“Sorry for being late,” Xiao Lin greeted.

“No, we’re specialized at waiting for you.” Wang Yuelan did not have a good look on her face, as if she was bothered by something. She opened her mouth, then closed it and looked at Mao Tianying.

“Fine fine fine! You both chat then, I shall not intrude!” Mao Tianying immediately left with a wry smile, closing the door on his way out.

“I wanted to see you two days ago, but something came up...” Xiao Lin guessed that Wang Yuelan could not find him two days ago, so she came here to ask him personally. He was contemplating his excuses.

Wang Yuelan was already holding a document folder and she strode over to him. She handed him the folder and stared at him intently, enunciating each word as she asked, “Xiao Lin, how did you actually enrol into the academy?”

Xiao Lin was a little flummoxed by the question. “The same as everybody else, of course. After receiving the courier delivery from you all, I tore open the strange admission letter. After that, I fainted, and woke up to find that I had been taken to Dawn Academy.”

“Yes, that’s right. That is standard procedure,” Wang Yuelan nodded, and suddenly retorted sharply, “but looking through the enrollment records for your batch, I didn’t find your records at all!”

Xiao Lin froze. “What do you mean?”

Wang Yuelan squinted her eyes, and said, “It means that among the admission letters that were sent, yours was not there at all. How did you enrol into the academy then? In fact, something felt off to me. If your records were there, why did I not have any recognition of it at all? After all, the freshmen files were personally compiled by my own hands.”

Xiao Lin took the folder. He opened it and it contained printed freshmen files. Naturally, this folder only contained files of pre-enrolment. The files of students that had enrolled belonged to the academy’s central computer system, which even Wang Yuelan had no authority to access.

The file recorded all the information of each freshman before enrollment, such as family background, address, even daily and personal habits, and so on. After all, the academy needed to have a general understanding of the freshmen. They did not want to recruit any nefarious characters. These were the daily tasks of the admissions department.

These files were arranged meticulously from top to bottom, alphabetically according to surname. There were a total of several thousand names. In addition to the current freshman year of over 1,000 people, the list of members who were eliminated from the admissions test was also among them. Xiao Lin refused to believe it and started to go through the column with the ‘Xiao’ surname.

After a long while, he raised his head, feeling a bit dazed. There was no trace of Xiao Lin’s name in the records, not even for another student bearing the same name. It was as Wang Yuelan had said; he was not in the records at all.

“There must be a mistake in your files!” Xiao Lin shook his head in denial.

Wang Yuelan said irritably, “You are questioning my job. I printed this file from my computer, and the database comes directly from the academy’s central management system. Also, after the freshman files were sorted, I reported them to the head of admissions, and the department head would hand them over to the student council, and even to the dean for review. Do you think there’s room for mistakes?”

Chapter 443 - Return To The Academy

Chapter 443: Return To The Academy

Reviewing layer by layer, the probability of Wan Yuelan’s work being wrong was basically zero. Even Xiao Lin understood that the probability of that happening was slim to none.

“Do you think someone forged the admission notice?” After all, Xiao Lin received the admission notice, and he was able to reach Dawn Academy because of it. That meant the admission notice was genuine.

“I don’t know, Xiao Lin, but I can guarantee that your admission notice was definitely not signed by our Admissions Department.”

Xiao Lin laughed bitterly. “What do you plan to do now? Are you going to report this truthfully?”

Wang Yuelan rolled his eyes and said, “if I were planning to report this, I wouldn’t be standing here waiting for you! It is impossible for an admission notice to be forged by outsiders. Regardless of how you obtained it, at least there weren’t problems with the admissions procedure. I just want to figure out what happened, so that similar events can be avoided in the future.”

Xiao Lin thought about it, and said, “Actually, all you need to do is go back to the academy and retrieve the file of the notice from the central computer. You’ll be able to trace the source from there.”

“That’s right, all will be clear when we get back to the academy,” Wang Yuelan said thoughtfully, and continued, “You don’t have to worry. No matter what, you’re still a student at the school, and it’s impossible to drive you out.”

Xiao Lin did not know whether to laugh or cry. Regardless of where the admissions notice came from, if the dean knew about his SS-level talent, he would not be driven away, no matter what.

After they calmed down, the two of them chatted briefly about Gu Chengyun. It was as Mao Tianying had said; Wang Yuelan also received a notice from the head of recruitment. However, they had put aside the enrollment of Gu Chengyun for the time being, and would consider it after the affairs of the Pacific incident were dealt with. Therefore, having no further assignments on Earth, Wang Yuelan was prepared to go back to the academy.

Xiao Lin had boarded the interspatial carriage many times and was no longer fazed or curious about it. Naturally, Wang Yuelan was the same. However, she observed Xiao Lin in the carriage. They had known each other since they were kids. However, the changes that Xiao Lin had gone through still raised Wang Yuelan’s curiosity, now that they had reunited after many years.

Wang Yuelan took the initiative to start the conversation and smiled. “You seem very used to this. Rather unlike a new student.”

“I’ve gotten used to it after boarding many times.”

“You’ve taken the interspatial carriage many times already?”

“I took it to New Washington.”

“Previously, I heard that a freshie went to America for a business trip. So that was you!”

...

The two of them gradually warmed up to each other through endless chatter and felt the familiarity between them return. Xiao Lin also inquired about the courses after the start of the new semester. He remembered Song Junlang telling him that the course would be a little different this time.

“It seems like your sources for news are quite broad. Yes, people from the Admissions Department also participate in the discussion. In fact, some people expressed dissatisfaction with the existing courses years ago. They believed that the school’s teaching progress was too slow, and it seriously affected the percentage of the population going to the New World. The education reform has been in preparation for a long time, and it seems the dean is determined to start this practice with the freshmen of this year.”

“Education reform. To reduce the number of courses or to reduce the required credits to graduate?”

“You can keep dreaming! The academy is hoping that the students would be able to learn the theoretical foundation in a shorter time span. It used to be that only senior year students may start practicals in the New World, but I think this year, they might bring it forward to junior year students. Ah, I guess I might have to go to the New World for an internship in the new semester.” Wang Yuelan had mentioned before that she was a junior year student.

Junior and senior year were still far away for Xiao Lin. Besides, he could go to the New World whenever he wanted. He was more concerned about how stressful his courses would be in the second half of the semester. However, Wang Yuelan was also unsure about this. Specific timetables were confidential and belonged to senior management of the student union.

After arriving at the academy, the two exchanged phone numbers for the magic phone. Although Xiao Lin was the last person to return to the academy in the freshman year, he did not exceed his holiday. The courses for the next semester would not officially start until the next day.

Those who returned to the academy early felt dissatisfied. Especially since much of the renminbi that they had exchanged had not yet been spent. To put it simply, they were pretending to not have enough. The topic on everyone’s lips was the mysterious rainstorm on Earth. After all, everyone was told to return to school early, and the reason could only be that strange rain.

Although there was no Internet connection on the journey between Earth and Dawn Academy, there were staff who frequently made trips between Earth and the Academy, so there was always an exchange of information every day. There were more and more people participating in the discussion, with some obviously worried for the safety of their families, and some even for the safety of Earth.

After Xiao Lin returned to the dormitory and opened the forums, he saw many such posts on the website. Knowing that these were people who were forced to return to school and may not know about the latest development, he wrote a post to explain the current situation. He just wanted to make everyone feel at ease.

In an instant, Xiao Lin’s posts received a lot of clicks and replies. Many people thanked Xiao Lin for his timely notification. However, there was also no shortage of sarcasm saying that he violated school rules by delaying his return to the academy and that the academy would definitely punish him for it.

At that moment, Xiao Lin had no time to look at the replies. Not long after returning to the dormitory, he received a message from the sophomore leader Chen Yu. [At 7 this evening, a freshman monitor meeting will be held in the meeting room B-1 of the student union office building.]

For half a year since he was enrolled, this was actually the first freshmen monitor meeting. For the first half of the semester, this job was carried out by the instructor. If instructors were not present, the job would be taken over by the monitors.

After dinner, Xiao Lin hastily made his way to the student union building. The building was only five stories high, with a plain, inconspicuous appearance. However, it could be said that the place was the central management hub of the entire academy. Most of the student union departments were located there. Most, not all. That was because the logistics department was almost entirely independent of the student union system.

The meeting room was not large, and Xiao Lin was not late. He pushed the door open and found that almost all other monitors had arrived early, including Chen Yu. In fact, there were still 10 minutes before seven o'clock, but Xiao Lin still felt slightly ashamed.

Everybody was speechless when they saw Xiao Lin. It was the first meeting of the leaders of the new semester, and this guy dared to arrive so late.

Chen Yu did not say anything. He even smiled and took the initiative, saying, "Well, that should be everyone. Let's start."

Several people were disappointed that Chen Yu did not say anything to the tardy Xiao Lin, although Xiao Lin was actually not late. However, everyone's attention was quickly focused on Chen Yu.

"Generally speaking, there should be a monitor meeting every semester, with the objective of setting tasks and goals for the entire semester. However, this will probably be the last time that I will have this meeting for everyone. That's because, according to the academy's usual routine, now that we're in the second half of the semester, we must elect the grade leader for the freshman year."

Chapter 444 - Education Reform

Chapter 444: Education Reform

Chen Yu's opening remarks shocked everyone like a blockbuster. The freshmen year's grade leader selection was long overdue, and it was also only a matter of time. However, it still brought excitement to all who heard it.

Chen Yu waved his hand, signaling everyone to be quiet. He subconsciously glanced at Xiao Lin and was a little disappointed to find the kid wearing a plain, nonchalant expression. He continued, "The grade leader is selected by the student council, so I won't say more on this. Now, to the next agenda of the meeting: the course schedule management for this semester. "

“Here it comes!” Xiao Lin muttered under his breath. He knew from Song Junlang and Wang Yuelan that the course would be changed, and he was curious to find out what the change was.

Chen Yu picked up a document from the table, cleared his throat, and recited, “For the purposes of implementing the dean’s approach to the education reform, cultivating more professional talent for the new era, and developing our nation in the New World, after careful consideration by the student council, it is decided to implement a new curriculum for the second half of the freshman year. In addition to the original courses, the following supplementary courses will be added, which include herbology, the study of scrolls, alchemy, forging, and so on. Students are free to choose, but they must specialize in at least one, and obtain a certificate after passing the exams.

“As for linguistics, there will be the addition of two courses: Basic Beast Language and Basic Elvish. Let this be a reminder that these are compulsory courses. As for historical geography, the following compulsory courses will be added, including brief history of the beastkin and the development of the elves. There will also be an addition for general courses, which is the introduction to the Planet Norma War... In view of a large number of courses, the student union had contemplated and decided that Saturday breaks will be canceled, and Sunday breaks will remain unchanged.”

Several monitors could not sit still any longer. They looked at each other. The number of courses had basically doubled compared to last semester, especially with the dazzling array of compulsory courses. It sounded very daunting. The compulsory courses meant that students had to pass the examination for those courses. Otherwise, they would not be allowed to graduate.

Xiao Lin frowned as he heard this. Beast Language, herbology, or forging were supposed to be courses for the sophomore year. It seemed that the academy had significantly shortened the courses, but what the hell was that introduction to war?

Chen Yu paused for a moment, surveying the different expressions of the freshmen monitors around him. In fact, he was feeling more at a loss than these monitors, as these courses were too strenuous for freshmen. He was also in a bad mood. As a grade leader, he had some inside information. This year, the education reform was being piloted in the freshmen year. If the reform turned out to be successful, it would be implemented throughout the whole academy.

As for the criteria for judging the success of the reforms, it would undoubtedly be the new Inter-academy Tournament, which was originally designed to test the potential of freshmen in each academy.

Chen Yu sighed silently, then coughed a few times to signal the others to be quiet. He had yet to finish his announcement. He said, “About the monitor of class four, Han Manman. As she had done well in the end-of-semester assessments, she was appointed as the official monitor.”

Han Manman was the only one who failed the last monitor selection. She had kept a low profile since then. She used to often target Xiao Lin, but now she had finally become the last official monitor. However, this was to be expected. As a talented recruit, it was only a matter of time.

“One last thing. The student union made a last-minute decision that each grade will set up an Elite Club, and the club members will consist of top-notch talents. The specific list is yet to be agreed upon, but the monitors are definitely in the freshmen Elite Club.”

“Elite Club?”

“What is this for?”

“Are we required to do anything?”

“The course schedule is tight enough as it is, wouldn’t this Elite Club just be a waste of our time?”

The monitors were even more perplexed. This year’s education reform seemed holistic, and not just limited to the teaching curriculum.

Chen Yu explained, “Elite Club members will have extra privileges. The specifics are still being negotiated, but one thing is basically certain. Everyone here will be able to travel to the New World in advance, and you will get more resources. Of course, you will have to take on more responsibilities. If Dawn Academy is attacked in the future, you all would be the first to go to the battlefield.”

“More honor, but also an early death!” someone muttered softly. This brought a chuckle in the room.

“You may think so,” Chen Yu said with a serious expression. “Don’t forget that you are students, and also warriors to defend the New World. This is the most important purpose of your enrolment to the academy. If you wish to enjoy all the bounties of the New World, you have to sacrifice your life to protect it!”

Xiao Lin asked abruptly, “Battlefield? War with whom? Is it Judge Academy, or the beastkin? The elves?”

“Who knows? Perhaps all of them.” Chen Yu gave a very vague answer.

The meeting ended amidst discussions, and the monitors received relevant information about the new curriculum. They would communicate the information to their fellow class members.

However, Chen Yu’s last words still cast a shadow in many of their hearts. War was never a pleasant thing, no matter what. Of course, Chen Yu had warned the listeners that they were not to disclose this to others.

Xiao Lin understood. He knew that this education reform should actually be called pre-war mobilization. Shortened curriculum, increased lessons in war theory—this showed that the academy was starting to lack warriors. As freshmen, of course, they would not be expected to go directly to the battlefield. If they were actually needed on the battlefield, it would probably mean that Dawn Academy had reached a desperate life or death situation.

When they last left the New World, it was actually in a very complicated state. High Priest Asabanor was intensifying the development of methods that could cause the failure of the Resurrection Tower, and created undead warriors. The outrageous attack against the dean also foreshadowed the discord within the Dawn Academy. There were also potential threats from external allied academies, in addition to Dawn Academy’s long-standing enemy, the beastkin, always lurking and itching to strike. No one knew when this fierce race would tear up the peace

agreement. Plus, far in the distance, the alliance between the elves and the Judge Academy was about to expire soon, and they never had the opportunity to renew the contract with the elves.

Today, the colonists still dominated the New World. However, behind the prosperity, the dark, hidden undercurrent had begun to surge. This undercurrent was so strong that people at Xiao Lin's rank could feel it, not to mention those of higher rank.

After the undercurrent may be war, it may be chaos.

Xiao Lin understood that he had to work even harder now. He had to improve his strengths quicker. Whether it was to protect others or to protect himself. On Planet Norma, power was the root of everything.

"I'll strive in the next half of the semester, and reach the Bronze rank!"

On his way back, Xiao Lin, who was deep in thought, had set new goals for himself for the new semester.

Chapter 445 - Choosing Support Roles

Chapter 445: Choosing Support Roles

That night, Xiao Lin pulled open a discussion group for Class Seven in the forum. He announced the general situation of the courses to everyone. Unsurprisingly, the education reform sparked a lot of controversial debate. Everybody reacted with complaints, especially for taking away a day of break, which upset a lot of people.

Of course, some people cared about the Elite Club and were even eager to sign up. However, before the student union had issued the regulations, the club was nothing more than a preliminary framework.

Under the management mechanism of Dawn Academy, the student union managed the grade leader, the grade leader managed the monitors, and the monitors managed the class members. Therefore, Xiao Lin had more or less full authority to manage Class Seven. Naturally, everyone would point toward him if they had any questions.

Qualified managers could not expose their inner thoughts to their subordinates so easily. However, this reform also obviously left most monitors in a clueless state. In contrast, Xiao Lin seemed to be much calmer. After all, he had his sources of information and had gotten to know much of this information in advance.

In a series of ambiguous and moderate explanations and reasons, he managed to ease the group's excitement. They then quickly entered into the topic of the new course schedule. Chen Yu had sent the timetables to the monitors, and Xiao Lin posted a large number of timetables into the group chat. There was another burst of chatter and discussions.

[Herbology? F*ck. Not only are we colonizing, they want us to become farmers too?]

[The above poster must have never played any games. Don't you know about support roles? There are always sub-professions in games. This is normal.]

[I think you're addicted to playing games! Do you think support roles can be learned so easily in real life?]

[Actually, I'm curious. Why would the school force us to learn this stuff? After we get to the New World, there would be a need for all kinds of professions, but it doesn't have to be these subjects, does it?]

[A discipline in forging? Damn, am I miserably going to become a blacksmith in the future?]

[I would never do this kind of physical labor!]

...

Xiao Lin watched quietly for a while, then expressed his opinion in due course. As the administrator of the chat group, he bolded and blackened his font. After he spoke, the noisy chat group suddenly quieted down. After half a semester, he had managed to cultivate some authority in the class.

[Actually, don't you think it's more accurate to call it 'logistics support' than 'support roles'?] Xiao Lin continued typing, [Logistics is important in a war. It could even be the determinant of victory or defeat. Herbology can produce various potions for the battlefield to treat wounds, while the forging discipline can repair broken weapons. I think the academy hopes that we have more professional and comprehensive skills, or you'd blame the academy for lacking talents in these areas.]

[War?] Someone astutely picked out Xiao Lin's use of terminology.

[At war with who?]

[We might have a war? It shouldn't be possible for Normans to fight us. Under the influence of the Resurrection Tower, it's pure suicide.]

It had to be said that the academy's education was still deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. In just six months, the might of the colonists and the academy were deeply ingrained in everyone's hearts. The colonists will not wage a war on Planet Norma. Although nobody would talk about this openly, they all believed this to a certain degree.

[I'm just giving an example, just treat it as a reference!] Xiao Lin was feeling rather helpless. Due to Chen Yu's request, he could not explain certain things directly. War was indeed looming, but the higher-ups of the academy would never want this matter to be made public, let alone be announced by a monitor.

Xiao Lin immediately changed the subject, [In short, moving forward, a class may be taken as a whole unit. So, I hope everyone's choice of subjects can be evenly distributed and not overly concentrated on certain subjects. Yeah, you all should understand what I mean.]

[Monitor, what you mean to say, is that you hope if we are suddenly thrown into war, we can deal with various emergencies more comprehensively. I agree.] As the team leader personally appointed by him, Zhou Feng made the first agreement.

There were no objections to this, and he smoothly obtained everyone's approval.

Regardless of whether it was for the monthly exams, or for real operations on Planet Norma, if a class was taken as a whole, then the more classmates who specialized in different disciplines, the more beneficial it would be.

Next, Xiao Lin asked everyone to write down the major they wished to select. The academy allowed everyone to choose at least one. However, Xiao Lin asked everyone to write down three, and to hand them to the two team leaders Zhou Feng and Gu Xiaoyue to compile. About an hour later, the summarized report was passed to him by Gu Xiaoyue.

The academy offered a total of six support role courses for the freshmen: alchemy, herbs, forging, scrolls, enchantments, and engineering. There were a total of 60 people in Class Seven. Xiao Lin took a rough glance and found that most people's first choices were enchantments and alchemy, followed by herbs and scrolls. Finally, almost nobody chose engineering and forging.

Xiao Lin did not know whether to laugh or to cry. He had expected this to happen. These two disciplines could be said to be the hardest and most physically demanding of the support roles. Forging, just as the group had previously complained, was just the upgraded version of blacksmithing. Engineering was even more difficult. On the battlefield, everything, from various defensive towers, fortifications to simple military housing, and so on required engineering.

Nobody was willing to accept this punishment, and Xiao Lin could understand this. However, when it came to the battlefield, nobody could repair broken weapons, and destroyed defensive towers cannot be built by just anybody.

In actuality, there was no way they would personally perform the engineering and forging. As colonists, they were nobles after all. Often, they merely needed to provide blueprints and work instructions. The local natives were the ones who carried out the hard work. Xiao Lin could not help himself and he tried to persuade the others.

Xiao Lin did not say it, but if there really was a war with the local native people, would the military still use the natives for such important tasks? Perhaps these disciplines were set up to enable them to become more self-sufficient in critical moments, and not having to rely on the local indigenous people.

However, his persuasion was to no avail. Xiao Lin mercilessly pulled out his authority as a monitor and started calling people out.

[You, your intelligence attribute is so low, and you actually chose scrolls? Are you kidding? Scrolling is a discipline related to spells!] Xiao Lin used his authority to compare the basic attributes of each class member. These support roles were also closely related to the basic attributes of each person.

[And you, your strength attribute is so high. Isn't it a waste for you to choose herbs? Get yourself to forging!]

[Your attributes aren't very high, and it would be difficult for you to be proficient in any of these. You go for engineering! The attribute requirements are the lowest there!]

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Chapter 446 - Choosing Classes

Chapter 446: Choosing Classes

Under Xiao Lin's forced assignments, they managed to get everything done within a night. Of course, there were those who had complaints in their hearts, but Xiao Lin's assignments were actually very fair. He assigned everything based on everyone's attributes and skills. After all, if someone who was primarily focused on physical strength went for the magical scrolls course, they probably would not pass anyway.

The next day, Xiao Lin brought the finished form for the class over to Year Leader Chen Yu, who was still serving as the temporary year leader for the first years for the time being. Once he received Xiao Lin's forms, Chen Yu praised him with some surprise. "Class Seven is quite fast. You're the first to hand in the forms. Alright, I'll hand the book lists over to you. To accommodate the change in syllabus, the school has opened up the rights to certain parts of the library to all you new students. Get your classmates to go borrow the related books."

The other classes were actually still a mess at that moment. Just like the problem Xiao Lin had encountered, not many of them were willing to choose the tiresome or troublesome subjects, especially the women. The monitors were all under pressure to try and convince their classmates. They were not stupid, and could naturally see the benefits that distributing the courses evenly could bring, but that was still contingent on the other parties agreeing.

Xiao Lin acted decisively. He did not have the patience to argue with the rest of them, so he just used his power to force the assignments. The matter had naturally exploded in the forums, causing quite a few complaints, but it was quickly forgotten because Class Seven quickly experienced the benefits of submitting their courses earlier, which was that they got access to the library before anyone else.

Dawn Academy's library was extremely large, and the books were very comprehensive. There were also numerous copies of even basic books, but even with the numbers, it was hard to provide enough for everyone, so the people with prior access naturally had the advantage.

When the last few classes submitted their forms, it was already the evening. Xiao Lin had thought about looking for Song Junlang, but was told that Department Head Song was not at the academy, and would be gone for a long period of time.

Xiao Lin regretfully instead headed to the student union to look for Wang Yuelan. It was not the first time he went to the student union, but Wang Yuelan had spent most of her time on Earth before this, so the two of them had yet to meet up.

Xiao Lin had naturally gone there for matters related to his admission notice. Wang Yuelan sent away the other department members in the office before closing the door, smiling bitterly as she

shook her head. “I had originally wanted to retrieve your admission notice from the Central Computer, but it surprised me when the notice had been classified as top-security. It seems to have been set by the dean, and I have no power to look at it.”

“It’s just a notice. Is there a need for secrecy?” Xiao Lin could not understand either.

“There really is no need. These things have never been secrets, and anyone could look at them. Yet you’re the only one who has his classified. It means that only the dean and the members of the high council have the authority to read it!” Wang Yuelan’s eyes shimmered with curiosity. “Junior Xiao Lin, I’m getting more and more interested in you now.”

“Ahem, your words are easily misunderstood!”

Wang Yuelan laughed, noticing that Xiao Lin did not want to continue on the topic, and decided not to press the matter. It had to do with the dean, so it definitely was not something she could interfere with.

“How goes your support class choices? I was just notified as well. The change in your coursework for your year is pretty drastic, and I think you’ll all be very tired from it.”

“I did not choose one.”

“Huh?”

“Yes, I have not picked one just yet because I’m not sure if I’ll have the time. It’s fine. When I want to, I can just listen in on the classes anyway. Alright, here’s my notice of admission. I’ll be off now.”

Wang Yuelan’s thoughts were still in disarray when Xiao Lin bid farewell. Of course, it was hard for her to understand how the only student with the rights to freely attend classes felt.

Xiao Lin did have a lot of freedom. His special rights allowed him to bypass the complications of picking his classes. He could just listen in on anything he felt like, whenever he felt like it. Other than that, considering that he often left for the New World, the student union had long since been used to his flexible timetable.

However, the student union president could not resist the urge to give Xiao Lin a call that night. On the magical screen, the president’s doll-like face was quite frustrated. “Even so, you can’t just not pick anything. You won’t have enough credits like this.”

Xiao Lin actually had some questions he needed to ask, and Department Head Song was not in the academy, so he took the chance to ask the president. “President, what are the requirements for my attributes if I wanted to reach Bronze rank?”

“You’re planning on hitting Bronze?” The president was not surprised, but he still furrowed his eyebrows with worry. “Are you sure it’s not too early? Bronze requires your total attributes to hit 300, but I need to remind you, rank does not equate to skill.”

Xiao Lin replied, “I know, attributes only represent the basic composition of someone’s body, but the distributions of attributes and experience in battle would still cause differences in skill.”

The president said meaningfully, “It’s good that you understand. The Inter-academy Tournament will be held at the end of the year. We’ve already talked about it last semester. The list is already set, and you’re definitely in it. Furthermore, I should also let you know that the selection of the year leader will be done after the tournament. You should understand what I mean by that.”

Xiao Lin paused before nodding thankfully.

“The situation in the New World is complicated at the moment, but you don’t have to give it much thought. However, I hope that we can achieve good results during the Inter-academy Tournament this time. The dean hopes so as well. No matter what, we’re the oldest colonial academy. If the old tigers don’t show their power, others might think our foundations are weakening and that we can be toppled easily!

“Alright, that’s all for now. Basically, you need to work hard. The dean and I will provide you with all the help we can. I hope you have a good semester.”

The president did not have any intention of continuing. He did not wait for Xiao Lin to reply before hanging up.

However, Xiao Lin could more or less guess that the relationships between the academies were beginning to turn distant. They had never stopped with their little conflicts, but those conflicts had never disrupted the harmony. Yet, something must have happened to cause even the usually friendly president to express such obvious anger.

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The president sat on the sofa deep in thought after hanging up. He only turned his head around after a long time, looking at the man standing next to him, saying, “The Central Computer notified me this afternoon that someone from the recruitment department called Wang Yuelan seemed to be trying to retrieve admission notices for the first years?”

The man was the head of recruitment. He looked much more mature than the baby-faced president in his suit, yet in front of the president, he was shaking with fear, not daring to show the slightest bit of carelessness. He hurriedly answered, “Yes, yes, there is someone like that. She is my assistant. She’s very sincere and hardworking. The dean has even praised her before.”

“Right.” The president did not address that, instead saying coldly, “Tell her to not touch the matter anymore. Otherwise, what awaits her is punishment from the academy!”

The man acknowledged it with a head full of sweat. The president might have said it with a kind smile, but when he decided to be strict, no one could take it easily.

Chapter 447 - The Start Of A New Semester

Chapter 447: The Start Of A New Semester

The new semester was about to start. Due to the large number of courses, there were also a lot of things that needed to be prepared. However, the courses themselves would not be delayed because

of that. The classes started just the day after everyone had borrowed the related books from the library.

Xiao Lin did not immediately pick a support course. He wanted to quickly get into the Bronze rank because Miracle and Ruin were special states that caused him to be more reliant on attributes than others.

If the last semester could be considered homogenous in its classes, then after the changes in the curriculum, there was a much larger variety of classes. Other than the support classes, even the main courses had gone through large changes. For example, Basic Swordsmanship had now advanced to Novice Swordsmanship, and the courses were separated into Novice Elemental Sword Aura and Novice Internal Sword Aura.

Basic Meditation had advanced to Novice Meditation. There was no differentiation of internal and external sword auras there, but other than meditation, Basic Flame, Water, Wind, Earth, Support, and even the combined elements all had their own classes.

That gave quite a few students a lot of excitement. A lot of them had complained about the stale and dry courses on the forums last semester. The last semester was akin to teaching them basic pronunciation before letting them see the words. Now that they had mastered that part, the academy was finally allowing them to walk on the true path of growth.

There were also other added classes such as Novice Physical Resistance, Novice Spell Resistance, Novice Perception, and Novice Dodging classes; they were all advanced versions of the prior basic classes.

With the increase in the volume of classes, the number of students attending each course decreased correspondingly. There were no longer classes that had over a hundred students. Some classes were also meant for second-years, so there was even a possibility that they would attend those classes with the second-years.

Other than all those optional classes, there was also one compulsory class: Novice Battle Training. It was a course that every student was forced to attend, but there was only one class a week, and it was arranged on Saturdays, which was originally a holiday.

Even though choosing optional courses was headache-inducing to some, from the student union's informational materials, truly picking their courses was not completely dependent on interest. Each person's physical attributes or elemental affinities also needed to be taken into account, so there was actually only a narrow list of options.

Monday was focused on the physical courses as usual, such as various sword arts. Xiao Lin had chosen elemental sword aura as his main direction that semester. After waking up early that morning, he had followed the timetable to the classroom area. The first-year's classrooms were not that different, and remained around Area A and Area B, but the classes for elemental sword aura took place in Area C.

Xiao Lin was quite curious. He knew that Area C onward were the classrooms of the upper-years, but thinking about it, the changes in the curriculum could have caused some of the courses to be merged with the second- or even the third-years.

Using his card to enter the training hall, he noticed that the spacious hall was quite empty. Only around twenty students were there, and all of them were strangers. Xiao Lin was not surprised. There were only very few first-years that had chosen to take up elemental swordsmanship. Even if some of them had the intention, the course had prior requirements, which was that their Basic Meditation needed to be at least LV4. That requirement was enough to scare away practically everyone.

Xiao Lin's appearance attracted a lot of gazes, and a woman quickly walked up with a passionate yet curious greeting, "Hello, I'm Cheng Xiaolin. You are?"

"I'm called Xiao Lin, I registered for this course this semester." The other party could be his senior, so Xiao Lin responded politely.

"Xiao Lin?" Cheng Xiaolin muttered to herself before her eyes widened, "A first-year?"

"Oh, you know about me?"

"Yes, do you not know that you have a bit of a reputation now?"

Once Xiao Lin's name was heard, even those who were originally not paying attention cast their inquisitive gazes over. Some even walked over to greet him. In the entire first year, only Xiao Lin's name regularly appeared on the upper-year forums. After a few times, his name had naturally been remembered.

"So am I the only new student here?" After a few greetings, Xiao Lin asked them this. Everyone there seemed to be familiar with each other, so they did not seem like new students.

Cheng Xiaolin was quite friendly. She smiled and said, "The course originally considered the Basic Meditation Requirement and made it a second-year class. In truth, a lot of students have to wait until their third year before being able to enter it. However, the academy was really bold this time to have opened the course to new students."

"Speaking of which, don't all new students choose the internal sword aura course?"

"I've heard of you. You're the only student from your year that's practicing both physical and magical courses. How admirable. I never had the time back then. I had to wait until my third year before having the free time to do it."

The rest continued lamenting. Xiao Lin could tell that most of the ones in front of him were third- and fourth-year students. To put it in another way, the course was basically a combined third- and fourth-year course, which caused him to feel a mountain of pressure.

"Is elemental sword aura really that unpopular?" Xiao Lin looked at the empty training hall. It was a little too quiet.

Cheng Xiaolin laughed as she explained, "It's actually not too bad. Our academy might not encourage dual-cultivation, but it does not forbid it. The lower-years have too little free time to do so, but once you get to the upper-years, a lot of us do try it out. It's just that we have these changes in curriculum this semester, so the fourth-year graduates are all busy with practical work. Even us

third-years have started to do it, so the number of students is lower this time. There are also constant drop-outs from semester to semester, so all that's left is us."

She was a friendly senior. She had a short ponytail, and was wearing a tight white training outfit. Her entire person exuded a young and energetic aura.

As they talked, there were an additional dozen or so students who entered. However, as the class started, there were only about thirty students. To the newcomer Xiao Lin, everyone treated him kindly. As upper-year seniors, they would naturally take care of a harmless junior that suddenly appeared. Some of them were even worried that Xiao Lin would not be suited for the course, especially since it was a course that used to be meant for upper-year students.

Chapter 448 - The First Class (1)

Chapter 448: The First Class (1)

The professor entered soon after. Xiao Lin's last professor was that fierce woman they called a dragon, so when he saw this professor's appearance, he paused for a while before snapping back to reality.

He was a wizened old man. Even though his gait was still strong and healthy, his face was still incredibly old. He had a head full of white hair, and wore incredibly thick glasses.

Thanks to Lifewater, Dawn Academy's old professors usually looked a lot younger than they were. For instance, Professor Dai from his history class last semester looked like a middle-aged man. That was why when Xiao Lin looked at the old man in front of him, he could not help feeling like something was off.

Furthermore, it was the elemental sword aura class, which was definitely an extremely physical swordsmanship course. Was there really no problem allowing that old man to teach the class? Xiao Lin could not help but have a head full of questions.

"That's Professor Zhang." Cheng Xiaolin said to Xiao Lin in a whisper.

"Oh? There's a new student this semester?" Professor Zhang looked toward the source of the noise, his eyes spirited under his thick glasses.

Cheng Xiaolin could not help but look at Xiao Lin suspiciously. Normally, after registering for classes the list of students would be sent to the professor, yet Professor Zhang seemed to have been confused.

Xiao Lin coughed dryly. He had used his special rights to enter the class, so he pretended to not know anything. Thankfully, Professor Zhang did not press the issue, waving his hands as he started the class.

"I've already covered the theory last semester, so we'll start with actual practice this semester. It's not hard to release elemental sword aura. The difficult part is mastering how to integrate the elements properly. The degree and ratio of the elemental usage also affects the power..."

As Professor Zhang started his lecture, the rest of them could not help but glance at Xiao Lin. Xiao Lin had missed out on the theory lessons from the last semester, but Professor Zhang could not stop the course just for one person.

Could this new student really keep up?

After the simple explanation, Professor Zhang did not waste time, immediately arranging for practice. It was more or less the same as Basic Swordsmanship, where two of them would group up to train. The results were much better than training alone.

The rest of them had long known each other, and after a few minutes of grouping up, everyone noticed something awkward. The original elemental sword aura class had an even number of people, but now they had an extra with Xiao Lin.

“Just add him into my group. We can train as three!” Cheng Xiaolin who talked to Xiao Lin earlier suggested.

“No need.” Professor Zhang adjusted his glasses. “I’ll do it myself.”

Everyone gaped in shock, and the attention shifted to Xiao Lin. Some of them were filled with admiration, and some of them were a little happy at his misfortune.

The attention caused Xiao Lin to fidget in place as he raised his hand and said, “I feel like I should just train with Cheng Xiaolin.”

There was a sudden silence, and Cheng Xiaolin glared at Xiao Lin in disbelief, as if refusing to believe that the new student dared to reject the offer.

“Oh.” Professor Zhang laughed self-mockingly. “You think I’m too old.”

Xiao Lin was a little awkward, but Professor Zhang’s frail appearance did lead to suspicions regarding his combat ability. Even if Dawn Academy’s professors were all true experts, experts were still split into combat types and theoretical ones. Theoretical experts might not be that strong.

“Professor, I don’t want to harm you.” Since the professor did not intend to change his mind, Xiao Lin could not help but thicken his face in explanation. His tone and attitude were very humble.

Xiao Lin was actually quite vexed. He was very familiar with his own ability. He might just be a Black-Iron- ranked new student, but he dared to challenge Bronze-ranked opponents when he had Miracle and Ruin active. Even though he would not use those two skills in training, even his flame sword aura was not to be underestimated at full force.

The professor in front of him, who was full of age spots and had scrawny arms, led Xiao Lin to suspect that the professor was not even at Black-Iron-ranked in skill. He definitely did not want to make a mistake during training and cause any harm to the professor. He knew very well that the professors in the academy were all precious and important treasures.

“Xiao Lin!” Cheng Xiaolin whispered, her face anxious as if she wanted to remind him of something.

However, Professor Zhang raised his hand and stopped her. He took off his glasses and massaged his tired skin as he smiled calmly, “There’s no way around it. Age spares no one. However, you can relax, I was quite skilled when I was younger. Don’t worry, you won’t hurt me. Furthermore this training hall has its own recovery system.”

Xiao Lin thought about it and agreed. Individual training definitely paled in comparison to dueling. Even if he still suspected the old man’s skill, since the other party was being so polite, he had no reason to reject it.

“Oh right, what did you want to say earlier?” Xiao Lin suddenly turned around, asking Cheng Xiaolin.

Cheng Xiaolin actually had a lot she wanted to say, but did not know what she should do, so she just replied, “Be careful.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll watch my strength. Anyway, I just started learning elemental sword aura.”

Everyone suddenly had a look of a mixture of pity and anticipation as they looked at Xiao Lin walk toward Professor Zhang with the steel training sword. Due to the special nature of elemental sword aura, even the training swords were made with steel, since regular wooden swords would be destroyed by the elements.

“Professor, please give me a lot of advice.” Xiao Lin decided to show off his current skills. He had managed to learn elemental sword aura from the professor last semester, but that was just a drop of knowledge. Now, he was about to receive advice from someone much more well-versed in the topic.

Professor Zhang smiled and nodded.

Xiao Lin raised his sword, but paused as he tilted his head, “Professor, this is?”

For some reason, the professor had retrieved his own weapon from the rack as well, even taking off his jacket, revealing a short sleeved T-shirt underneath. He was definitely very frail, causing anyone looking at it to worry.

“If I don’t test you myself, how would I know your level? Alright, stop with the small talk. If you wish to continue listening to my class, you best give me your best performance!” Professor Zhang’s face suddenly lost a part of its warmth when he picked up the sword, and instead gained a look of dignity.

Xiao Lin shrugged in exasperation as he took a deep breath, remembering the key points to elemental sword aura. He quickly communicated with the elements around him. His elemental affinity was inclined toward fire and water, and he currently had the most training with the offensively stronger flame elemental sword aura.

Boom!

A coil of flame burst out from his sword; the flame was three meters tall, and the embers burnt the floorboards. The deep red flames started to rapidly increase the temperature in the training hall.

The seniors who were anticipating a good show suddenly turned serious as shock burned in their eyes. They muttered, “What strong elemental sword aura! That brat is not bad!”

Chapter 449 - The First Class (2)

Chapter 449: The First Class (2)

Outsiders look on for the excitement, insiders look for the techniques.

Everyone in the training hall was familiar with elemental sword aura. They did not look down on Xiao Lin, but elemental sword aura was something that needed the support of both magic and close combat-based courses, so a new student being able to master it was something unthinkable.

That was why when they saw Xiao Lin’s flame sword aura, they could at least see that the new student did have the qualifications to attend this class, but their expressions did not change too much. They only had looks of pity for Xiao Lin in their eyes.

“Not bad,” Professor Zhang praised. “Come! Let me see how strong your sword aura is!”

Xiao Lin was still hesitant. He could already unleash his elemental sword aura, but in truth, it was still not at the point where he could fully control it. If he swung his blade, he was not sure if the old man could withstand it. Even though the training hall had its recovery system, the old man only had casual clothes on, without even the most basic defense. If he was killed in one blow, then he would lose his life span for no reason, which was not ideal.

“Oh? Afraid now?” Professor Zhang provoked.

“Careful!”

Xiao Lin finally stopped hesitating, but he still chose to hold back, even if he still could not completely control his strength. As his blade danced, his flames followed suit, and the embers started to cover half the training hall. However, everyone there was an upper-year student, and flames of that level were not enough to harm them.

“Your communication with the elements is strong, and your control is better than what I expected. Your Basic Meditation must be quite good.

“It’s a pity your control of flames is way too weak. You’re only coating the flames on your blade with no thought, only to enhance the power. It’s the biggest mistake rookies make, but you’re still much better than most new students.

“Your communication with the elements is too aggressive. I really don’t know what your meditation teacher taught you.”

Facing Xiao Lin’s fierce slash, the old man did not have a trace of nervousness, merely standing there and muttering his evaluations. Xiao Lin felt more and more anxious, and could not hold himself back from shouting out, “Be careful, Professor!”

The professor's warm expression suddenly sharpened, finally raising his steel training sword slowly. His blade was very slow, like a snail, yet in a flash, a bright deep red glow suddenly emitted from his blade.

Flame sword aura!

Professor Zhang was planning on using the same flame sword aura to block the slash. It was the same element, yet it looked completely different. Xiao Lin's flames were mostly external, his flames almost burning away the training hall, yet the professor's flames were reserved and internal. The candle-like flame gave the feeling that it could be swallowed by Xiao Lin's at any time.

Boom!

The two flames suddenly collided. Xiao Lin's flame elemental sword aura was like a gigantic monster, and it opened its flaming mouth, biting down with its berserk flames.

Professor Zhang's body quickly disappeared in the light of the flames. Xiao Lin's heart sank, yet after a few seconds, the flames dispersed and the professor's frail silhouette slowly reappeared. He stood there unharmed, and the flames on his blade had disappeared as well. The sword itself emitted white steam, and the tip of the sword had been burnt black.

Xiao Lin let out a sigh of relief seeing that the professor was safe and sound, yet he could not understand how. His eyes had been completely fixed on the professor the entire time, and the professor's elemental sword aura had felt weak to him. Yet, the clash between sword auras seems to have ended in Xiao Lin's defeat.

No, even if it was a defeat, the defeat was still very strange.

Xiao Lin was puzzled. The power of his sword aura should have suppressed the professors. Being defeated by a weaker sword aura was something that left him stumped.

"Professor is so biased."

"He held back in the end."

"Of course. Otherwise, how could the new student still be standing there?"

The mutterings behind him caused Xiao Lin to feel like he had misunderstood something. Professor Zhang put his glasses back on, and his wrinkled face had a peaceful smile once again. "You're better than I expected. No wonder he kept on recommending you to me. Alright, you can stay on. Your training partner will be me from now on."

Xiao Lin was still in a daze when Cheng Xiaolin walked over, saying in admiration, "You're so lucky! The professor rarely teaches anyone personally! I've been in this course for two years, and you're the first!"

The short performance had led everyone to be disappointed because Professor Zhang did not use his true power, but facing a new student, that was to be expected.

“Professor, you mentioned someone earlier? Who was the one who recommended me to you?”
Looking at the professor turning around to leave, Xiao Lin hurriedly went over.

“Song Junlang.”

“Huh? Him! Ahem, I mean, so, it was Department Head Song.”

“Haha! That brat is quite cheeky.” Professor Zhang seemed to be able to guess a little about Xiao Lin and Song Junlang’s relationship. Then, his tone turned slightly sentimental. “Back then, he was really talented at elemental sword aura. What a pity.”

This time, Xiao Lin understood; the old man was probably Song Junlang’s teacher back then. It seemed like Song Junlang had recommended Xiao Lin to the old man before, but Song Junlang had never mentioned it.

“Did you remember what I said just now?”

“What?”

“Your elemental sword aura is definitely better than most rookies, but it’s still too weak. However, your potential is better than I expected. It’s probably even better than Song Junlang way back then. Not bad, not bad. I haven’t seen a brat like you in many years.” Professor Zhang muttered to himself as he walked.

The ones who were anticipating a good show of the professor trouncing Xiao Lin could not help but look at Xiao Lin in another light. Professor Zhang rarely praised anyone—never really. The words of praise he said then were probably more than he had said in the past few years.

After the brief excitement, the training hall went back into the usual training. To the upper-year students who were going to enter the New World soon, rather than wasting time admiring the potential of the new student, it was more practical to think about their own future.

The professor did not rush to duel with Xiao Lin. He brought Xiao Lin to the lounge next to the training hall. The lounge was obviously something that had been added on, and seemed to have been built in consideration for the professor. The professor sat down and made himself some tea as he massaged his back, sighing, “I’m so old! Let me ask you, have you been through any instruction or study regarding elemental sword aura?”

“No.” Xiao Lin said in embarrassment, his tone was much more respectful than before. It was obvious that the old man in front of him was secretly a boss.

“That’s good! That’s good!” The old man let out a breath, smiling happily.

Chapter 450 - The Professor’s Elemental Sword

Chapter 450: The Professor's Elemental Sword

The old man's smile caused Xiao Lin to be even more confused. It seemed like the professor was instead happy that he had never gone through proper elemental sword aura education?

It seemed to be so. After repeated questioning, he found that Xiao Lin only had a little bit of instruction from the new students. He nodded, muttering, "That's good, that's good. He hasn't been defiled."

The professor continued to be vague. "Do you know why I called you here?"

"You're tired." Xiao Lin looked at the head full of sweat on the old man. As powerful he was, his body did not look like he could take much now, and his moves just now exerted him to this degree.

The professor immediately glared at him, his expression terrifying.

"Ahem, I meant you wanted to teach me alone." Xiao Lin immediately changed his stance at the change of the expression.

The professor was finally satisfied, his face reverting back to his friendly smile. Xiao Lin was sweating looking at it. He now started to believe that the old man was Song Junlang's teacher; the two of them had some similarities to some degree.

"I called you over mainly because there are some things that can't be said in front of others, so we can only talk about it here. Since you're someone that brat Song Junlang recommended, I can trust you."

The words caused Xiao Lin to feel a sense of gratitude. He started to feel like getting to know Song Junlang was the luckiest thing that happened to him in Dawn Academy. If things went normally, the next step would be the old man passing down some secret techniques hidden from over hundreds of years.

Professor Zhang's expression was stern. He stood up and took a deep breath, preparing himself before saying, "The academy's courses are all f*cking pieces of sh*t! Ah no, that would be insulting to sh*t! It's completely misleading the students! Destroying their futures! Those stubborn fools, we'll eventually be destroyed by their very hands! Force feeding students like back on Earth is useless, and will just cause their thoughts to stagnate..."

Over the next dozen minutes, Professor Zhang basically continued cursing everyone in the academy from top to bottom.

Xiao Lin was stunned listening to him. It was hard to believe that the friendly, warm and always-smiling professor from a few minutes ago now had such a furious expression.

At the end of it, seeing the old man's temper not seeming to simmer, Xiao Lin hurriedly brought over the tea that had already cooled down on the table. The professor took it from him, gulping it down in one go. He seemed to be much more relaxed. He seemed to calm down, and he wiped away the tea leaves on the corner of his mouth before sitting down. "Yes, I said a little too much, but at

least you understand now. Elemental sword aura requires a broad mind, and not to follow some rigid pattern! You still haven't been poisoned by the lessons of those b*stards, so you're lucky!"

Xiao Lin was helpless. He had read the material that Dawn Academy had set, and it was quite holistic. It was not as useless as the professor claimed; it was just that the professor came from a different point of view. Of course, Xiao Lin did not say that out loud, and instead nodded at the professor's views. "You said I was quite intuitive. Then, how do you think I should train my elemental sword aura?"

The old man dodged the question, instead asking, "Do you want to know how I broke your flame sword technique earlier?"

Xiao Lin was speechless. The old man was asking something that had a clear answer, but Xiao Lin still nodded, showing his curiosity.

"Since you already know the difference between external and internal sword aura, you should already understand that elemental sword aura is an external sword aura, which means it uses external powers to increase your own strength. If you view your own power as fire, then external force is wind. Wind enhances fire, so it's a supportive relationship. Do you feel like a slave master would be able to integrate with his own slaves perfectly? Would they be able to form a true and earnest supportive relationship?" Professor Zhang asked with a sharp tone.

Xiao Lin already had similar thoughts, and had somewhat grasped it, but he did not manage to fully understand it with his thoughts in disarray.

Professor Zhang was quite satisfied with his expression. The professor stood up after regaining his energy, moving his arm like a conductor full of vigor as he said loudly, "It looks like you've understood it! The elements are actually our helpers, friends! Not slaves! Not servants! And yet, now we are, no, all the element users of Planet Norma are committing a major mistake. All we do is command the elements!"

"Do you mean the elements are alive?"

"Do you think plants have lives?"

"Yes," Xiao Lin answered.

"Then, do you think germs are living things?"

"Yes." Xiao Lin hesitated before adding, "From a biological standpoint, germs are prokaryotes. They don't have complete cell structures, nor do they have a clear nucleus, but they have nucleoids and ribosomes..."

"Enough, don't recite a book to me!" the professor interrupted. "Then, do you not think elements are alive?"

"Even if they are, I don't think they are any form of higher living being." Xiao Lin smiled bitterly. Thanks to the basic courses last semester, he had a basic understanding of Planet Norma's structure. A lot of those courses were translated by Planet Norma's own natives. When it came to

the planet, Xiao Lin did not believe that they would have a deeper understanding than the natives as outsiders.

“Professor, that would be a philosophical question.” Xiao Lin saw that the professor still wished to continue, and interfered, “I think it’s better that we discuss how to increase the power of elemental sword aura.”

If the elements were alive, or if they had higher intelligence, it did not matter to Xiao Lin. He only wanted to master elemental sword aura and hurry to the Bronze rank.

The old man stared, crying out in frustration after a pause. “Follow me! I’ll show you how I broke apart your sword aura earlier!”

Returning to the training hall, the upper-year students were all intensely training. The sound of steel clashing could be heard, as well as the howling sound of wind, piercing sound of thunder, sizzling sounds of burning, and the dull shaking of the ground. It was no wonder that the training hall was so big despite the small number of students. The destruction caused by elemental sword aura training was quite massive.

The professor found an empty location, and casually took a steel sword from the weapon rack, waving it in the air a few times. His slow movements caused his swordsmanship to be inaccurate, but that was not the main point, because Xiao Lin quickly felt the flame element start to concentrate on the tip of his blade.

It was a very faint layer of fire, only at the level of a firefly, seemingly able to be extinguished at any time. Xiao Lin worked hard to feel it from meditation. It was just like what he felt earlier; the professor’s elements were very weak, but he felt like something was weird in his head.